MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN
AND NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE.

DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE, THE FARM AND THE GARDEN. THE FIRESIDE, RURAL LIFE, LITERATURE, USEFUL ARTS, NEWS, &c.

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Editorial.

PLANT AN ORCHARD.

Though we have had some years of comparative unproductiveness in our orchards, it will never do to give up discouraged. We must have fruit, and to get it we must make an effort. Once it appeared to be easy. To put in a tree with even ordinary care, seemed to be sufficient to insure the desired result. Producers grew more numerous, and they gave large accounts of crops. The severe droughts of 1864 and 1865, together with the immense multiplication of insects arising from the wholesale destruction of birds, increased the difficulties, and appeared to establish the conviction that the fruit crop was a precarious one at best, and many were inclined to give it up.

Now we say it will never do to give it up so. We are going to have good fruit years in the future as well as in the past, and the fact that so many have embarked in it should not deter any enterprising farmer from setting out an orchard. The number of producers has increased, and the consumers have increased in an equal ratio. The more fruit produced, the greater the demand. The fruit always brings a good price if it reaches the market in good condition. The predictions of those who declared that the market would be glutted, have never been and we believe never will be verified. This vast country with its active millions, will, if they can get it at fair prices, consume enormous quantities of fruit. Once, a nursery boasting of ten or twenty acres was considered a large and important one; now, we find nurseries that actually contain three, four, and even five hundred acres each. Where dozens of trees were sold, as many hundreds are as easily disposed of, and great efforts are yearly made to meet the immense demand. This effort is in the right direction, and it will surely lead to good results.

Of all our fruits the apple is that best adapted to farm culture. The pear must be left to the careful horticulturist, except so far as may be sufficient to supply the wants of the family, but the apple ought to be produced upon the farm in far greater abundance than it is, or is likely to be for many years to come. But it does seem too bad that Massachusetts should be obliged to pay thousands of dollars annually to other States for apples, when we have, perhaps, thousands of acres well adapted to the cultivation of this fruit. It is doubtful if apples can be raised near the large cities, where land is worth a high price, and pay as well as the smaller fruits. But back in the country where good land suitable for orchards can be obtained for fifty or one hundred dollars per acre, convenient to railroads and other means of transportation, this fruit can be profitably raised. If the farmer in western New York can grow apples and send them from two to five hundred miles to market, why cannot the farmer of New England grow them from twenty to fifty or a hundred miles away, and compete successfully?

The want of more satisfactory results in individual cases is often the fault of the individual himself. We know that certain things are requisite, even in the cultivation of apples, in order to secure the best results. The soil and location selected for the apple orchard must be such as will be adapted to the growth of the tree and the production of fruit. We regard what is called strong land, even though a little stony, as the best for an apple orchard. A good deep, yellow loam for a subsoil is excellent. If the land is inclined to be wet, it should be well drained. Avoid thin plain land; but on no account set apple trees on wet meadow land. If the location be on the southeastern, southern, or southwestern slope of the hill, so much the better, that the trees may enjoy some protection from the cold, sweeping winds of the winter, which are very trying to trees, especially since the forests have been so extensively cut off. We regard this matter of shelter as one of great importance, not only as applied to this fruit, but more especially as applied to pear and other less hardy fruit trees. Having secured a proper location and soil, it is better to cultivate the ground at least one year, and manure it well, before setting the trees. Select as the best age and size, trees two or three years old; head them in slightly by cutting off a portion of the former year's growth. The ends of all the large roots should be smoothly cut off before the trees are set out. The trees may be set to good advantage in the fall, if the ground is not too wet and springy, though many prefer spring. When once planted they should not be neglected, as thousands of trees are, and left to die. Many persons buy a few apple trees, set them out in the grass, and then go away trying to think they own an orchard. Such persons have no right to expect good results. An orchard needs care as well as any other crop, and unless it has it, we ought not to murmur if it does not bear. Apple trees should receive attention every year. They need to be pruned; to be protected against the ravages of insects, canker worms, caterpillars and borers; to be scraped when they become rough barked, that no harbor may remain for injurious insects, and also to improve their appearance; to be manured if they need it, to keep them in good growing condition.

☞ Flattering accounts of promising crops come from all parts of the south.

THE TRUTH ESTABLISHED.

In presenting to our readers the decision of Mr. Secretary of the Treasury Boutwell, two weeks ago, we intended to say that previous to the 26th of February, 1868, Mr. McCulloch had decided that by the true construction of the wool tariff, no wool was included in the first class except merino and its grades, and these only when not in a condition to be suitable for carpets, and in the second class only combing wool of three kinds of English blood were included, and that all other wools, as many as a hundred varieties perhaps, of non blooded wools were included in the third class, being excluded by blood from the first and second classes.

A writer in the department of Sheep Husbandry of the *Rural New Yorker*, in the issue of April 10th, questions the legality of that decision of Mr. McCulloch, and admits the absolute failure of his favorite wool tariff, if the Secretary's decision is correct. He thinks Mr. McCulloch's *errors* of judgment may be ascribed to his well known bias in favor of free trade, and the writer tries to derive some consolation under the natural and almost necessary imputation of being outwitted by the manufacturers on the joint committee by expressing the belief that the present Secretary, Mr. Boutwell, *will reverse* the decisions of his predecessor, because he is a better lawyer.

Such consolation was rather short lived, and the writer seems now compelled to admit the wool tariff to be a complete failure, for Mr. Boutwell's decision *confirms* Mr. McCulloch's decision to the letter, as appears in our issue two week's ago.

The gentleman intimates that not a word was said in the discussions of the Joint Committee about wools being classified by the blood, and that he never heard of such a fact till sometime after the passage of the law.

This is certainly a very remarkable statement to come from a gentleman claiming to be fully posted on the subject, and to know all about making wool tariffs, for this fact of the classification by blood was plainly stated in the *Ploughman*, while the bill was postponed by the action of the Senate, and it was stated by the agricultural papers both East and West.

We take all the more interest in these decisions of the two secretaries from the fact that they establish the judgment and foresight of the *Ploughman*. They form the most complete vindication of the course we adopted. More than six months before the bill was adopted the *Ploughman* said "The 3rd class will embrace a multitude of wools, both coarse and fine, in short, all the wools of the world except the above high grades of clothing wools, merino and its grades, which constitute the first class, and the three kinds of combing wools of English blood the second class, therefore, wools in the 1st and 2nd classes will not embrace more than half of the clothing wools of the world usually imported." It was also declared that the bill, if passed, would prove a humbug and a snare.

THE SUNFLOWER.

The Sunflower is popularly regarded as a cheap and comparatively worthless plant, cultivated, perhaps, because the owner of the cottage or the homestead is hardly able to have other and more gaudy and pretentious plants to ornament his surroundings.

It is, to be sure, a somewhat coarse, tall growing and hardy annual, showy, and in suitable places by no means unattractive. It was introduced from South America as early as 1596, and has at times been put to a great variety of uses. It was found by experiments, formerly made in this State, that a bushel of Sunflower seed will yield a gallon of oil, and that an acre of ground planted three feet apart in rows will yield from forty to fifty bushels. The oil is as mild as sweet oil, and equally agreeable on salads and as a medicine. The seed is raised with very little trouble and we should like to see it more commonly cultivated.

We find a short article upon it in the *Agricultural Intelligencer*, the first regular weekly Agricultural paper in Boston, we think, started in January, 1820, by William Spear, in which the uses to which the Sunflower seed may be applied are stated as follows, being translated from a Portuguese work:

1. The sprouts are eaten with oil and salt.
2. Bread is made from the seed and gruel for children.
3. Some American natives eat the seed.
4. The seed gives oil for several uses.
5. It fattens fowls.
6. Its leaves are excellent food for cattle in summer, and increase the quantity of milk in cows.
7. They are also good for sheep.
8. The stems are useful to support climbing plants.
9. They serve for fuel; as good as willow wood.
10. The seeds when roasted have the flavor of coffee, and the infusion of them, like tea, makes a pleasant beverage.

These important uses ought to set people to thinking.

AYRSHIRE STOCK.

The Messrs. Sturtevant of South Framingham sailed two weeks ago for Scotland to examine the finest herds of Ayrshire stock and to select from twenty to thirty animals to import and to establish with them as a nucleus, a breeding farm. We shall look with interest upon the results of their investigation, and shall be glad to chronicle the arrival of a fine herd fresh from the beautiful hills and meadows of Ayrshire.

CORRECTION. The article entitled "A Bird's Vision" in our last week's issue, was accidentally published as having been written for the "*Ploughman*." It should have been credited to that ably conducted periodical *the American Naturalist*, published at Salem, Mass. It was written by Dr. ELLIOTT COUES.

☞ The Chicago Butchers' Society offer a silver belt with a buckle of gold to the butcher who can kill and dress an ox in the shortest time.

☞ One of the aims in farming should be to produce, as far as possible, everything you consume — to buy nothing you can raise yourself.

MASSACHUSETTS AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

The Sixteenth Annual Report of the Secretary of the State Board of Agriculture is before me. In the variety and interest of the topics discussed and elucidated, and in the succinct and comprehensive manner in which they are placed before the reader, I think this volume is one of the most valuable of a series, which has added more than any other to the agricultural literature of our country.

It is a live book, by earnest men, containing the best matured experience and judgment of the most practical of scientific agricultural thinkers and writers, as well as farmers of the States. These gentlemen are well informed upon the subjects they speak or write about, and in the treatment of those subjects there is a point, a directness in communicating their knowledge that admirably adapts the work for the purpose it is designed to accomplish, which is to disseminate broadcast, valuable and vitalizing information, fresh, reliable, and at the same time suggestive and progressive to the working farmers of our State; to lead them by the shortest way to correct conclusions of great importance to their business, to the proper development and improvement of their farms, and all their material interests; and while strengthening the experience of the elder portions of our farming communities, it leads the younger part, from whose ranks the farming interest of our State are to be recruited, to inquiry, to effort, to enterprise, and to see in the calling of the farmer full scope for the exercise of their utmost energy and a sure, if somewhat slow way to competence and an honorable position in life.

The Secretary, as he placed a copy of his work in my hands, remarked that it was the best volume of the series that had been issued, for, said he, "others have written and said more, and I less than in the previous volume." While acknowledging his modesty in the remark, and the real merit of the volume, I beg to dissent from his logic and his conclusion, for his ready pen touches no agricultural subject that it does not adorn and illustrate understandingly, and the judgment and good taste which he has shown in editing and selecting the best and most valuable portions of the speeches and essays are apparent all through the book.

To attempt to call the attention of the reader to all the articles of value and interest in the book, would be to reprint the index or to transcribe the running titles from the top of each page; for a glance at either will show how varied and important are the subjects referred to and discussed. The whole volume contains about six hundred and fifty pages, and is divided into two portions.

The first part commences with the report of the Cattle Commissioners upon "contagious diseases among cattle," with particular reference to the "Texas cattle disease," which has excited so much interest and alarm in the community.

Then follow accounts of the public and other meetings of the Board of Agriculture, with a particularly interesting one of the public meeting at Amherst in December last, giving a full phonographic report of the speeches of Messrs. Clark upon the "work and wants of the Agricultural College." Report and remarks upon a "barn for the Agricultural College farm," full of suggestive hints and experienced remarks, for all who wish to be skilled in this important adjunct to profit and success in "farm crops." Address of J. F. C. Hyde upon fruit and berries, and their culture, full of practical wisdom, and varied knowledge, and enlivened and elucidated by the remarks of others of the Board who were present. Address of Col. M. C. Weld upon commercial and other fertilizers. Then follows an account of the phosphate beds of South Carolina, recently brought more particularly to notice, but which it seems practical science had discovered and appreciated many years since. This account, with the remarks of Professor Agassiz upon the phosphate beds, and also his and Col. Wilder's remarks upon soils, etc., will be found very interesting. A lecture by Prof. Gamgee, "upon the principles involved in the preservation of meats," which is full and exhaustive upon this important subject, written in the Professor's best spirit and enlivened by the remarks of Prof. Agassiz and Col. Wilder. A lecture or address by Wm. Clift, Esq., of New York, upon that question of absorbing interest to all agriculturists, "How to Make Farming Profitable." An address by Prof. Agassiz, upon "The Origin of the Agricultural Soil." An address by Mr. X. A. Willard of Utica, upon "The Dairy and its Products," full of all "modern improvements," and indispensable practical suggestions. An address on the hay crop, which is styled "The King among the Crops of the Earth," maugre the claims of the would be King Cotton—who is called an "usurper" by Mr. Alexander Hyde of Lee, and a very valuable treatise it makes. Address by Levi Stockbridge, upon "The Art of Agriculture," in which he treats of the necessity to the farmer of scientific knowledge as the "why," and of practical farming as the "how" of agricultural art. An address by Dr. Geo. B. Loring on "The Value of Agricultural Investigation," and upon the Agricultural College, which address displays the extensive agricultural reading of its author, as well as his practical experience, and abounds in polished sentences, statistics, information and arguments, at once pleasing to read, and convincing, and shows how much an educated mind may find even in the homely subjects of the farm, to call forth its powers.

The address of Dr. Loring ends the account of the meeting at Amherst, which seems to have been made very pleasant and genial by the hospitable attentions of its citizens, ladies as well as gentlemen, and was a most decided success.

Then follows an account of the Annual Meeting of the Board in January, with reports of various members upon various subjects, as—Mr. Sanderson on "Amending Soils by Mechanical Means." Prof. Clark on the "Cultivation of Cereals." A. P. Slade on "Small Fruit Culture." Asa Clement on "Commercial Manures." Dr. Nathan Durfee on "The Relation of Manufactures to Agriculture." N. S. Hubbard on "Farming as an Occupation, etc." James Thompson on "The Best Method of Feeding Dairy Stock." Report by Mr. Hyde on "The Potato Crop." Report upon "The Trial of Ploughs in May last,"—which reports, addresses, etc., with the appointment of delegates to the county conventions and committees upon various subjects cognate to agriculture, with the reports of delegates to the agricultural exhibitions, which are full of interesting information, local as well as general, necessarily condensed into as few pages as possible, but still full enough, to give the substance and drift of the various matters brought to notice, fill up the first part of the work.

The second portion of the volume commences with the "Abstract of Returns of the County Societies," with the officers of those societies, and the time of holding the agricultural exhibitions for 1869. Following these are the various addresses, or extracts from them taken from the Reports of different societies, and among these addresses or extracts we find an address upon "The History of the Essex Agricultural Society, by Dr. Geo. B. Loring," which like all his published addresses abounds with useful and interesting information. An address upon "Education in Agriculture," by Rev. Dr. Thomas Hill. "American Labor and its position," by Daniel Needham. "Relation of Agriculture to the State," by R. Goodman. "Future Prospects of American Agriculture," by Dr. G. B. Loring. "Intellect in Farming," by Alexander Hyde. "Pests of the Farm," by Edward A. Samuels, containing valuable hints for the eradication of vermin and injurious insects. "Improvement of Meadow and Swamp Lands," by I. V. Adams. "Manures," by James R. Nichols. "Orchards and Fruits," by the Committee of the Essex Society and others. "Hedges," by Chas. Mason—and portions of remarks upon Forest Trees, Cranberry Meadows, Grain Crops, Root Crops, Domestic Wines, Farm Implements, Milch Cows, Stock, Horses, Sheep, and a capital article upon "Poultry, or the Management of the Hen Coop," with one on Dairy Products.

The volume is judiciously illustrated by excellent engravings, and winds up with a few pages giving in an Appendix the officers of the Agricultural College of Massachusetts, with the course of study, daily routine, admission, expenses, etc., of the institution, and has an Index to the Secretary's Report, as well as one to the Abstract—and by the way no volume of the kind should ever be got up and published without such an Index.

We have here, as will be seen by the reader, a volume upon almost every agricultural subject, from a herd of cattle to a brood of chickens, and from a collection of ploughs to a cider mill, with discussions upon the most abstruse as well as the most practical questions involved in carrying on the farm and the garden. I understand that County Societies and Farmers' Clubs are supplied with copies of these Reports, and venture to make the suggestion, that where local topics of interest are not plenty these volumes might be read with great advantage in course, aloud, by the members in turn, that all may hear and know what is so well written upon farming matters. This will improve those reading in a most excellent accomplishment, furnish subjects for remark, and the valuable information thus disseminated will have its good effect upon the members.

I wish we could have adopted in this country the plan in practice abroad, of having our public reports, which have a general as well as local interest, as those of the Agricultural Department, the Patent Office, the Smithsonian Institute, etc., and these State Reports on Agriculture, etc., for sale at their cost, by the booksellers—that all interested, whether having official friends or not, and in all parts of the country, could purchase and possess them without being obliged to apply to those in office for, and solicit them; for the valuable information embodied in these reports should be confined to no section, by a restricted circulation, but be open at cost for all.

The last new novel may be full of sensational interest, and be most exciting to peruse, but for real valuable reading, interesting and exciting too, give me the last Report of the Secretary of the State Board of Agriculture, for as Saltonstall has said, "In winter you may read it by the fireside, and in summer under some shady tree, and therewith pass away the tedious hours."

N. Y. S.

NORWAY OATS.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

I saw a few lines in the *Ploughman* of April 17th, asking for information about the Norway oats. I would say that I sowed two quarts last spring in my field in the corner of a piece of barley. I must say I was astonished at the growth. Although not a very good season for grain, we threshed them by hand and cleaned up two and one half bushels of as handsome oats as you would wish to see. I have sent some of them to Kansas, and have sold all I could spare to my neighbors. I used green manure spread and harrowed in, and a light coat of leached ashes. Yours, &c.,

J. D. STOTT.

P. S.—Since writing the above I have weighed some of my oats named above and find they weigh forty-eight pounds to the bushel.

J. D. S.

Newmarket, N. H., April 17, 1869.

ADVANTAGES OF DAIRYING.

A Western farmer talks up the double advantage of dairy farming in one of our exchanges as follows:—

I live in the "Western Reserve," and in an almost exclusively dairying region, and have seen it change from stock raising and grain growing to what it now is, and the profits of the farms now are nearly two-fold more than they were under the old system of management. Farmers found that ten to twelve bushels of wheat to the acre, thirty of corn, the same of oats, with attendant expense, such as hired help, seed, extra teams, etc., with the inevitable wear of land, did not pay, but that dairying, with cheese from twelve to sixteen cents per pound, with a little hired labor, and no wear and tiring of one's self, but the reverse, does pay, and that well. I do not propose to go into a long argument to prove the advantages and beauties this business has over other branches of farming. I do claim, however, that dairying, in a country adapted to it, is least exhausting to the land, requires one-fourth the manual labor that grain growing does, and as the principal portion of the farm is in grass, does, of necessity, make the country look more beautiful to the travelling public.

THE QUESTION OF GOOD ROADS

As the time approaches when the election of supervisors of the public highways will take place, and as the end of winter and the beginning of spring is the best period to discuss the question of road making, for then they usually are in the worst condition, and the necessity of reform and improvement is presented in the strongest light, we shall take occasion to urge upon the people of the different townships the importance of having better roads and of spending more money to make them so.

In the making or repairing of a road, it requires the employment of but a small amount of experience and skill. In the laying out of new roads, as sharp hills will not be suitably graded, if graded at all, these hills should be avoided as much as possible by seeking a route to which the obstacles of a sharp grade will be little, though the road may be longer. A single sharp hill in a road, say five miles long, will have the effect to lessen the burden to be carried one-half, as no matter what may be the excellence of all the rest of the road, it will be governed by this single acclivity. So it is with bad roads. A low point only fifty yards in length, almost always miry and cut through nearly hub deep, will control miles of good road; and these low pieces can be stoned, bevelled and drained at an expense frequently of not more than fifty dollars. But there are numerous holes and gullies that are allowed year after year to remain untouched, and are unsafe for even light travel, which an outlay of from ten to twenty-five dollars would permanently remedy. Every farmer who reads this knows that it is so, and he must also know that the wear and tear of vehicles, horses and harness, to say nothing of the danger and delay, would pay him well if he kept the highways in the best repair along his own premises at his own expense. This, however, can hardly be expected, though we have known some farmers to do so.

As to repairing of roads, let any one who has a knowledge of good roads and how they are kept so, look at the shameful and stupid manner in which a large proportion of our roads are attempted to be repaired. Was there ever more downright ignorance exhibited concerning any matter? Instead of draining the water from the surface of the roads directly into the gutters, it is allowed to run down the hills in the middle of them. A little bank at the road side of the gutter, made by throwing the dirt out there, effectually stops the water from getting into it and forces it upon the road. In other places, the road instead of being bevelled from the centre to the gutters, is level and sometimes hollow, retaining the water and keeping the ground wet so long as soon to have it cut into deep ruts into which the water runs and remains still longer.—*Ger. Telegraph.*

ABOUT THE BARLEY CROP

Is there not danger of a barley fever taking hold of farmers this spring? For the past two years the price of this grain has ruled unprecedentedly high. Heretofore no cereal has had its "ups and downs" like barley; if high one season, it was sure to be low the next, and vice versa. Lately it has been maintained at a high figure, and now, with no surplus stock on hand, the price will average, in all our markets, a quarter higher than wheat. Yet, as a general thing, barley is as reliable as spring wheat, though less so than oats.

No doubt a large breadth will be sown to barley this spring. The comparative low price of spring wheat will induce many a farmer to sow barley in its stead. It is a crop easy to manage, and brings quick returns; but our readers should not forget that, as prices in the past have shown, unreliable, in the immediate future they may tumble, and, under the impetus of a large crop, go very low. We don't wish to croak, or discourage farmers from sowing barley—by all means stick to your system of cropping if a good one—but we think it will do no harm to suggest that you will be safer to base your calculation of profits on a lower price than ruled last year. It may be that oats will be neglected just enough to enable those who grow a good crop of them to make a nice thing.

Whether the price be high or low the farmer who grows a large crop will be satisfied best. A warm, rich, kind soil, is best adapted to this cereal. A light sand, a stiff, cold clay, or a worn field is unsuitable. Fall ploughed land should be well cultivated to the depth of three or five inches. By all means avoid such culture as will leave the soil liable to bake and crust over after the sowing is done. It is well to sow early, if the soil is dry enough to work well, but it is better to sow late than "mud in" the seed. Early sown barley is usually heavier than late sown, but the stand is very liable to be thin, from the ravages of worms and the rot.

With barley at a dollar and a half per bushel it pays very well to top dress with guano, superphosphate, or a compost of ashes, plaster, fine barn yard or hen manure, mixed and applied at once. Two bushels of seed per acre are sufficient. Barley is a good crop to follow potatoes, or more plainly, the potato crop, if planted on a sod, fits the land well for barley, and soil well adapted to potatoes, in general, is good barley soil. It is unsafe to sow on freshly turned sod, or even on that late fall ploughed. After sowing roll the field, if it is not so wet as to cause the ormation of a crust.

A crop of barley has been grown, threshed, sold, and the money used to pay a note on maturity, that was due ninety days after the sowing. It is the easiest of all grain crops to harvest. Let it stand until quite ripe, and if the weather is fair, cut with a reaper and leave it in full sized gavels. In this state it will cure in a day or two, if the weather be favorable, without turning, provided there is not too much grass or weeds with it. Then drive the wagon into the field and let two hands pitch it on with barley forks. Handled in this way, it is bright and free from dust. If a rain falls on it while in the gavel it does no serious injury, and one turning will suffice to dry it, if thoroughly wet; but the gavels are generally admirably shaped to turn rain, and they will rarely be wet to the centre.

Bright barley straw is highly relished by cattle, and barley meal is excellent feed for all kinds of stock. If there should be too much of this grain for the beer makers the surplus could be turned to good account by the beef makers.—*New York Rural.*

CARELESS CULTURE.

E. Morris states in the *Horticulturist*, that a neighbor of his went into strawberry cultivation on a grand scale—his theory being the simplest imaginable—that if one acre would yield $300, twenty acres would yield $6,000—why not? One part was left out of the figuring, namely—the cost of labor in keeping the plantation in perfect order. The plants would of course grow, but weeds and grass would be likely to do the same. Harvest time came, with ten weeds to each strawberry plant. He picked great quantities of fruit, of small size, poor quality, and selling at low prices. His paper cultivation was not realized. Another neighbor had only six acres in all—tolerated no weeds nor runners, and made more clean gain than the twenty acres. His berries were large and excellent, and sold readily at high prices.

— The value of the agricultural products of Colorado in 1868 was $2,683,840. The shipments of gold and silver amounted to $2,107,235.

INSECTS INJURIOUS TO VEGETATION,

AND THEIR EXTERMINATORS.

LETTER FROM DR. LORING.

The following letter written by Dr. GEO. B. LORING to the *New York Tribune*, in relation to injurious insects, opens an important question, and one of interest to farmers as well as scientific explorers. The theory advanced by Dr. Loring is attracting the attention of some of our best entomologists, as will be seen by the correspondence to which he refers.

SIR: I notice in *Harper's Weekly* of March 20, an article upon some suggestions made by myself, in my opening address before the New England Agricultural Society, in February last, with regard to the destruction of insects. The subject is one of so much interest and importance to the agricultural community that I desire to present my views more elaborately than I did in the address, and with the hope that your readers may see what a fine field for scientific inquiry is opening before us, and how much scientific men are doing to render practical aid to the business of farming.

It is well known that the destruction caused by insects injurious to vegetation, constitutes one of the greatest difficulties to which the farmer is exposed in the cultivation of every crop known to man. The army worm, the weevil, the midge, the canker worm, the caterpillar, the maggot, all attack the vegetation from the time it appears above the earth

The Ploughman.

BOSTON, SATURDAY, MAY 8, 1869.

THE NEW MINISTER TO ENGLAND.

Hon. J. Lothrop Motley, the new minister to Great Britain, so far as prestige, character and position are concerned, will be likely to have a very favorable reception in the higher circles of England. We have always been peculiarly fortunate in the selection of gentlemen to represent us at the Court of St. James. They have always been thorough gentlemen, ripe scholars, and in many instances men who have attained a wide celebrity in literature, which does not often help a man along in political advancement in this country. Mr. Motley is known as one of the best historians and scholars the country has produced. He has had experience in diplomacy, and he brings to his new position all the advantage in the delicate questions which will come before him, of the deliberations, the discussions and learning of his predecessors and other publicists.

The Alabama claims question is not to be considered as abandoned by reason of the rejection of the terms of settlement which Minister Johnson, to speak mildly, rather hastily prepared. Neither is it to be supposed that the speech of Mr. Sumner represents the ultimatum of this government. It was a forcible statement of what we might justly claim as the damage resulting to us from the conduct of England, and seems to us like one going into a lawsuit, beginning with making his exhibit as large as possible, and bringing in every possible ground of claim, so as after all possible deductions and allowances, to leave a respectable margin for a settlement, or for a jury to base a verdict upon. We can afford to concede considerably from the claims as laid down by him, and yet come off with honor and satisfactory reparation in the shape of damages.

All the various phases of this affair are but parts of the game on either side to wage the controversy in public by the press and familiar discussion, and secretly by diplomacy. There have been times when we only sought and would have been satisfied with pecuniary compensation for the vessels and cargoes destroyed by the Alabama, and that would have involved an admission that England was in the wrong. The present stir about it on both sides will be soon over, and the diplomatists will be in a position to resume the question with enlarged views and more profound knowledge of the drift of sentiment of the two nations on the merits of the case. No settlement will ever be arrived at except by way of compromise, and the only question will be how to adjust the terms without lowering the honor and dignity of either nation.

THE LIQUOR LAW.

The Senate have from time to time discussed the House bill to revive the prohibitory liquor law, but up to last Monday had made no substantial change except to authorise the manufacture and sale of lager beer, as well as cider. The bill as it stood Monday, by its first section re-enacts the old prohibitory law. The second section authorises the sale of cider and lager beer containing not more than three and one-half per cent of alcohol, not to be drank on the premises. The third section makes the pay of the Commissioner $4000 per year – allows him seven per cent on the capital invested, and after six months compels him to import all foreign liquors offered for sale. The fourth section permits towns containing not more than 5000 inhabitants to appoint one or more agents and fixes a penalty for selling adulterated liquors either by agents or persons in his employ. The fifth section simply provides for the appointment of an inspector, prescribes his duties and fixes his salary at $3 000. The sixth and last section is enacted to provide against adulterated liquors, and commissions officers of the Commonwealth as often as once in three months to procure supplies of the agent, bearing the seal of his agency, and have it analysed.

By an act lately passed the license law was so amended that the issue of licenses under that law was prohibited after the first of May, and since that day there has been no law in any form in force authorising the sale of intoxicating liquors. The argument for the repeal of the license clause was, that in the near prospect and almost certainty of the repeal of the license law it would be unreasonable and unjust that parties should take out and pay for licenses for another year, to have them so soon taken away from them by repeal of the law, and no strong objection was made to the repeal. It is now however in the power of the prohibitory majority to reject all bills for any further modification of the liquor laws, and leave the present license law on the statute book, with the license clause taken out of it, which would make it the most effectual prohibitory law we have yet had.

SILVER WEDDING.

The silver wedding of Hon. Henry L. Dawes, member of Congress from the tenth District, was celebrated at Pittsfield, Monday evening. A large number of distinguished persons were present, including large delegations from Boston and Springfield and North Adams. A special train from Boston brought the Lieut. Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Moses Kimball, Hon. Genery Twitchell, and a large number of the members of the Massachusetts Legislature. The gifts were many and elegant. The citizens of North Adams presented a silver dinner service, the manufacturers of Berkshire a costly epergne, and the Berkshire Bar a handsome bronze clock.

THE DARIEN CANAL. Later advics from Central America revive the hopes of those interested in the magnificent scheme of connecting the two oceans by a canal across the isthmus. Official advices are to the effect that the treaty rejected by the Senate of Columbia, has been ratified by the House and the latter has sent a message to the former requesting it to reconsider its action. Our Senate at its late session did not act on the subject at all, but it was supposed at the time that Columbia had rejected it entirely. The reasons given by the Senate for its actions were very frivolous, and a reconsideration is possible. The terms of the treaty allow till September 1870 for its complete ratification.

The principal reasons for the rejection of Mr. Cushing's ship canal treaty by the Senate of Colombia are reported to have been the following:

"First—That this government has no option to share in the profits of the enterprise but after the lapse of twelve years.

Second—That there was no guaranty of the profits that this country derives actually from the Panama railroad, in case that this road should be ruined by the competition of a canal.

Third—That by the stipulations of the treaty this company was put at the mercy of the United States government in all questions relative to the interpretation of the clauses of the contract.

There were some vague hopes of more advantageous propositions to be received from England."

THE PACIFIC RAILROAD. Although there are but about twelve miles of the line to complete to enable the two roads to form a junction, it is stated that it will not be accomplished for two or three weeks, on account of the difficult nature of the work. The reports are that the labor is being prosecuted with the utmost vigor, and the end of this month or sooner will witness this wonderful work completed.

MR. DREW'S CASE.

Mr. Thomas Drew, imprisoned by order of the Senate for refusing to be sworn for examination before a committee of the Senate, brought his case before the Supreme Court last Tuesday by a writ of habeas corpus, and the points at issue were argued principally in writing by Lysander Spooner, Esq., for Mr. Drew, and the Attorney General opposed.

Mr. Spooner's argument stated that the only objection to being sworn rested simply upon the fact that it did not appear from any papers furnished, nor from any authority or information legally in his possession, that the subject matter of the investigation was one which the legislature had authority to investigate by compulsory testimony. And that inasmuch as the subject matter is, on the face of it, one in regard to which he cannot lawfully be required to give any testimony at all, he cannot lawfully be required to swear that he will give any.

The following propositions were argued at length, and with considerable ingenuity. 1. That the law can, in no case whatever, require a man to be sworn, until he has been legally informed of the subject matter in regard to which he is to be sworn. 2. That a man cannot lawfully be required to take any oath that he cannot lawfully be required to fulfil. 3. That a man cannot lawfully be compelled to be sworn before any tribunal that has no lawful authority to investigate, by compulsory testimony, the particular subject matter in regard to which he is to be sworn.

The argument of the attorney general was very short; taking the ground that there is no doubt of the general power of either branch of the legislature to summon witnesses to appear before it or its committees, and to compel them to testify. That this subject is clearly within the proper range of legislative inquiry; and this court will not assume to revise the judgment of the legislature, as to the subject matters which are suitable for their investigation. That the right to summon witnesses and compel them to testify is not only a right inherent in all legislative assemblies, but it is expressly recognised by various provisions of the Statutes of Massachusetts. By general parliamentary law witnesses may be summoned, and are bound to appear, and if they refuse to testify are guilty of contempt and punishable accordingly. The provisions in the Constitution of Massachusetts that the "House of Representatives shall have authority to punish by imprisonment every person, not a member, who shall be guilty of disrespect to the House, by any disorderly or contemptuous behavoir in its presence," and that "the Senate shall have the same powers in like cases," are broad enough to cover all offences by persons not members and clearly include the present case. If the legislature or either branch thereof, have power to summon witnesses and compel them to testify, a refusal to testify when required is a contempt of the authority of the legislature. In the present case, the petitioner when brought to the bar of the Senate, has refused to be sworn.

The Court, Judge Gray, took the matter under advisement, and on Wednesday gave an elaborate opinion sustaining the action of the Senate, and remanded the prisoner to jail.

A FASHIONABLE WEDDING. A highly fashionable wedding occurred at the Madison square Presbyterian Church in New York last week, the parties being Mr. Maury, son of Lord Maury and nephew of the Duke of Althorp, of London, and Miss Maria Gilbert, who has been a belle in metropolitan society for several years. The nuptial service was impressively performed by Rev. Dr. Adams, at the conclusion of which the groom kissed his bride. The wedding party consisted of seven beautiful young ladies who attended the bride, and the same number of groomsmen. The bridesmaids, led by the bride, entered the church by the middle aisle, the groom and groomsmen by the side aisle, and meeting them at the altar. This is said to be the latest and most approved fashion. The bridal robe, which came from Paris, was of superb white satin, over which was an entire dress of magnificent round point lace. It had a train four yards long. The bridesmaids were dressed to correspond.

DR. LIVINGSTONE. It appears by the English papers that the recent report that Dr. Livingstone had been at Zanzibar, and had left to make his journey to Egypt by the overland route, was untrue. The report was started by a French vessel. The President of the Royal Geographical Society (Sir R. Murchison) has received dispatches from the Vice Consul at Zanzibar, dated 5th of March, two months later than the time the rumor was given, in which not the slightest mention is made of Dr. Livingstone. The last intelligence received direct from the intrepid traveller was on Dec. 14, 1867, at which time he was at Cazambe, 700 miles from Zanzibar, since which no reliable intelligence has been received as to his movements. The officials of the Royal Geographical Society will entertain no fear respecting his safety until at least another twelve months have passed. It is believed that he is at present travelling in the mass of fresh water lakes beyond the explorations of Speke and Grant.

THE DEBT STATEMENT. The mode adopted by Secretary Boutwell in his monthly statements of the condition of the debt is the only true and rational one, and the only mode in which can be shown the relative condition of the finances from month to month and quarter to quarter. By including accrued interest in the sum total of the debt we can mark the whole increase or decrease. Interest forms a very large item of liability. The May statement shows a very gratifying reduction of about six million four hundred thousand dollars, and there is reason to believe that the reduction will continue. By reduction of the debt is not meant that interest bearing debt is paid off, but that the means of the treasury to pay are increased. The next four months there will be very large receipts.

THE FRENCH ATLANTIC CABLE. The manufacture of the French Atlantic Cable is rapidly approaching its completion. Up to April 14, the total length manufactured was 3,033 nautical miles—2,314 miles of the section intended to be laid between Brest and St. Pierre, and 716 miles of the section between St. Pierre and the United States. Only 474 miles of the former section and 57 of the latter remained to be completed. The whole length of the core for both sections had been finished at the Gutta Percha Works. The Great Eastern had taken on board 1,750 miles of the first section, and the steamer Scanderia 450 miles of the second section.

SUPERFLUITY OF OFFICES. Hon. William A. Richardson, Judge of Probate of Middlesex County, and Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, has declined the office of Judge of the Superior Court, to which he has been appointed by Gov. Claflin. It is a most uncommon thing now-a-days to see a person decline an honorable and decently lucrative office like this, and Judge Richardson, as the holder of two offices, must be the subject of envy to the army of office seekers, to have still another office seek him.

NOBLE GIFT. The well known firm of Oakes Ames and Sons of Easton, are as distinguished for their liberality as well as for their wealth. They have just erected and presented to the town a large and handsome public school building, erected by them at an expense of forty thousand dollars. The town undoubtedly owes much of its material prosperity to the enterprise and business of this great firm, and it is a proof of a great and noble generosity that they have selected this mode of benefitting their fellow citizens.

HON. CHARLES SUMNER'S SPEECH IN ENGLAND.

The leading English papers have discussed Mr. Sumner's speech on the Alabama treaty. We cannot give our readers a better idea of their views than by quoting in full the telegraphic sketch of the article in the *Times*.

"The *Times* designates the estimate of damages made by Mr. Sumner as portentous. It already reaches four hundred and twenty-two millions sterling and may in the future be made to enforce the possible earnings of all the soldiers withdrawn from the productive labor during the war of the rebellion. The speech is worthy of Mr. Sumner's ability and deserves impartial consideration. He wants something more than reparation; he wants contrition and public humiliation. Assuming that England has cruelly wronged America, no good object would be served by expressions of regret and penitence in a treaty. Treaties of peace dictated by conquerors at the head of armies are unincumbered with such expressions. To require an acknowledgment of moral liability beforehand would be to prejudice the controversy and stultify the proposed settlement. In the event of a decision by arbitration declaring England not liable, would the apology be taken back? The view taken by Mr. Sumner is unreasonable and unstatesmanlike. The *Times* argues that the belligerency of the Confederates was a simple fact, not dependent on the declaration of a blockade. Had there been no blockade, the case would not have been altered in an appreciable degree. The prevailing tone of the speech is one of passionate remonstrance and menace. It betrays a one sided partisanship, lamentable in the representative of a great country. Mr. Sumner makes no complaint of France, although the Emperor was desirous of recognising the independence of the Confederacy. The *Times* argues, that although, according to Mr. Sumner, England was the only foreign power in the world implacably hostile to America, it is not too much to say that the fate of the American Union, at one moment, depended on the voice of England, whose sword thrown into the scale would have decided the contest, and shows the unfairness, bordering on infatuation, which leaves this consideration out of account. It is the common practice of American journalists and politicians to vilify England. The protective tariff system is strong in the United States only because it works injury to Great Britain. Let atonement be made for the insulting language of individuals, whether in England or America, by the retrospective verdict of public opinion and by the cultivation of mutual respect in our private relations. Nations, as such, only deal with overt acts, which are only possible subjects of pecuniary compensation."

MR. BOUTWELL'S POLICY. The new Secretary of the Treasury visited the stock exchange in New York a few days ago, and made a short speech in which he said that in accepting the high and onerous position offered him by the President of the United States he had done so with some misgivings, but that he had determined faithfully to collect the revenues due the Government, and apply them to the working expenses thereof, and the surplus, if any, to the reduction of the national debt. Furthermore, that he should institute economy in the Department, and all its operations should be open to public scrutiny. He closed by saying that he should endeavor to administer the finances without in any way embarrassing the business of the country.

FRANCE AND BELGIUM. The difficulty between France and Belgium is to be settled by a *Conference*—the Emperor Napoleon's favorite idea for the settlement of all international difficulties. The "Belgium question" is simply this: A French company purchased a Belgian railroad. Immediately after this, the Belgian Chambers enacted that no Belgian railroad could be purchased or controlled by a foreign company without the consent of the Belgian Chambers. Thereupon, the French Government remonstrated diplomatically with the Belgian Government; but there was the enactment of the Belgian Chambers, and the Belgian King was powerless, even if he had desired to accommodate France. Regarding this question, a good deal of irritation has appeared in both France and Belgium; and as it is a standing article of European faith that France desires the absorption of Belgium at the first convenient opportunity, it was supposed by some people that Napoleon would press the French claims with a show of determination. Having resolved, however, to submit the whole matter to a Conference, we may now look for a pacific settlement of the difficulty.

THE EIGHT HOUR LAW. Notwithstanding a good deal of pressure has been brought to bear upon the President to induce him to rescind the order of the Secretary of the Navy relative to the eight hour law, nothing definite has yet been done in the matter. It has been under consideration at several of the recent meetings of the Cabinet and has been thoroughly discussed. The suggestion has been made to the President, not only by Secretary Borie, but by other prominent officials, that the matter had better be left open until the meeting of Congress, when it will be very easy for that body, if deemed necessary, to adopt any legislation they choose—designating the hours of labor that will be required of persons in the employ of the government. It is very probable that this course will be pursued.

THE PARAGUAYAN WAR. This war seems to be breaking out anew. The Paraguayans seem to be of that class of men who never know when they are whipped; the worst and most perserving kind of enemies. President Lopez, with all his faults, appears to have a controlling influence over his countrymen, and although they have lost some of their strongest places, and thousands of men, they are still reported to be taking the offensive against the allies with a new army. Meanwhile the allies are getting heartily tired of the war, and the world in general is forgetting what it is all about, if indeed they ever knew.

BOLD ATTEMPT AT ROBBERY.—On Monday last, while one of the Merchants' Union Express Company's delivery wagons, containing numerous money packages and an iron safe with from $30,000 to $50,000 in it, was standing at the corner of Broadway and Pearl street, New York, in charge of a lad of eighteen, the driver being in a store delivering packages, three men leaped in it, seized the lad, held him down to the floor, and drove away at a slashing gait. A truckman named Dyer saw it all, and, jumping in front caught the horses and stopped the robbery. The thieves broke away, and two of them mingled in the Broadway crowd and escaped, but the third was captured.

WHITE PINE MINING COMPANIES.—The excitement which prevails on the Pacific coast relative to the White Pine silver region is attested by the fact that up to the close of the month of March the number of joint stock companies organized to work claims there amounted to 169, and additions to the list were being made daily. A large number of these companies are got up by San Francisco speculators. They have a paper capital of $246,884,000, divided into 2,330,061 shares. The consolidated Eberhardt and the Eberhardt Mill and Mining Companies have the largest capitals, namely, $10,000,000 and $12,000,000 respectively.

MASSACHUSETTS MINISTERS. It is a source of just pride to our State that so many of her distinguished sons have been sent abroad to represent the country in diplomatic capacities. During the last twenty-five years we have furnished almost all the ministers to England. George Bancroft, Edward Everett, Abbott Lawrence, Charles Francis Adams, J. Lothrop Motley, are a list of names of which any State might well be proud.

☞ Commissioners appointed to ascertain the amount of damage done to property in the border counties of Pennsylvania during the rebel invasion have completed their allotment. The total amount claimed is $1-821,031 44, and the amount allowed $1,063,-351 52.

NEW ENGLAND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

The Board of Trustees of the New England Agricultural Society held a meeting at the Parker House, in this city, last week, to consider a proposition from the Trustees of the Maine State Agricultural Society for holding the next annual fair of the New England Society in the city of Portland; also to revise the premium list, and appoint new committees under the several classes, and to make arrangements for a trial of hay making machinery at Amherst, in June next. There was a full attendance, every State in New England being represented.

The following Trustees were present: Hon. Fred. Smythe, Geo. W. Riddle, Chas. Williams, Moses Humphrey, Andrew H. Young, and Daniel Hall of New Hampshire; Henry Clark, J. C. Chandler, Peleg Winslow, D. S. Bliss of Vermont; E. H. Hyde, Benj. Sumner, H. S. Collins, and S. M. Wells of Connecticut; J. DeWolf Perry, Thos. B. Buffum, J. C. Chandler, and Obadiah Brown of Rhode Island; Jonathan Wheeler, S. H. Howe, J. A. Harwood, Richard Goodman, Nason D. Weld, S. B. Phinney and Thos. Sanders of Massachusetts. The following Trustees of the Maine State Agricultural Society were also present and were invited to take part in the meeting. Seth Scammon, Warren Percival, Seward Dill, Samuel Wesson, George W. Ricker, and Columbus Atwood, S. L. Boardman, Secretary.

Hon. George B. Loring presided, and on taking the chair briefly stated the objects of the meeting.

Hon. Daniel Needham, Secretary of the New England Society, read a communication from the Trustees of the Maine Society, proposing to unite with the New England Society in an exhibition on the grounds of the Forest City Park, in Portland, during the second week in September next.

On motion of Richard Goodman of Lenox, it was voted "that the President and Secretary be and are hereby authorised to contract with the Trustees of the Maine State Agricultural Society for holding the Annual Fair for 1869 in that State, in accordance with the proposals made to the Secretary by said Maine State Society."

The contract was subsequently drawn up and signed the same day. The terms are of the most liberal character, and reflect credit upon the management of the Maine Society and the citizens of Portland.

The general arrangements for the fair were then debated and adopted, being the same, with some trifling amendments, which governed the fair held at New Haven last year. Letters of inquiry respecting the fair were ordered to be addressed to Col. Needham at Boston, or S. L. Boardman, Secretary of the Maine Society, at Augusta. The fair will commence Sept. 7; and it was agreed that no animal should be precluded from competition for the first premium in any class by reason of having taken the same at previous fairs of the society. An additional premium of $25 is to be offered for the best bull five years old and upward, with specimens of his stock of not less than five.

The list of premiums for trotting horses was left with the Trustees of the Maine Society to arrange, and it was resolved that the Board of Trustees disapprove of the high premiums paid for trotting horses at New Haven last year.

Premiums were offered for grade sheep, and the rules laid down by Halstead were adopted as a standard of excellence in judging the quality of poultry.

On motion of Hon. Frederick Smyth of New Hampshire, the President and Secretary were authorised to accredit delegates from the New England Society to all State Societies in this country, to all Provincial Societies in the Dominion of Canada, and to such foreign societies as they may deem proper, without expense to the society; and those societies in return are to be invited to send each one delegate to the exhibitions of this society, by whom they will be entertained as guests.

The motion was subsequently so far amended as to require the delegates from the New England Society to make reports in writing to the President and Secretary of their observations.

The rules and regulations which governed the trial of mowers and reapers of the New York Agricultural Society were adopted for the trial at Amherst, and a committee was appointed, consisting of two members of the society from each of the New England States, with President Geo. B. Loring as chairman, to attend the trial and make awards.

COMMITTEE.

At Large—Hon. Geo. B. Loring, Salem, Mass.

Maine—John F. Anderson, South Windham; Calvin Chamberlain, Foxcroft.

New Hampshire—George W. Riddle, Manchester; Charles Williams, Manchester.

Vermont—O. S. Bliss, Georgia; C. H. Hubbard, Springfield.

Massachusetts—A. G. Hills, North Wrentham; T. D. Thatcher, Lee.

Rhode Island—William Ellsbree, Cranston; Obadiah Brown, North Providence.

Connecticut—E. W. Hatch, West Meriden; H. S. Collins, Collinsville.

The Board voted to offer a gold medal for the best mower, and a silver medal for the best tedder and horse rake; a silver medal for the second best mower, and a diploma for the third best; also a diploma for the second best tedder and rake. An entrance fee of fifty dollars will be required from exhibitors of mowing machines, and twenty-five dollars for tedders and rakes.

Tuesday, June 22, was fixed as the day for commencing the trials, which will probably continue four days.

Full particulars of the Trial will be found in another column.

On motion of Col. Riddle, of New Hampshire, the Board adjourned *sine die*.

For the Massachusetts Ploughman.

HONOR TO WHOM HONOR IS DUE.

We seldom take up a paper, but we read of some brave man extolled for an heroic deed or conquest; but little is said of the noble heroic man, who has achieved so much the last two years. I refer to George T. Angell, Esq., the dumb beast's evangel, who in my estimation is greater than a conqueror of armies. God speed him in his work of love and humanity, and if an abler pen than mine may not take up the refrain, when his "soul's white feet" shall enter the Celestial Gate, his welcome reward will be, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

B. A. B.

LIBRARY FOR THE INSANE. Several years since Dr. C. A. Walker of the Insane Asylum of South Boston, started a library for the use of his patients, which has grown by purchase and the gifts of friends to such pretensions that a catalogue has been printed of the volumes. There is room on the shelves for a few more volumes, and possibly the suggestion that those who have books which they would like to send where they will be appreciated, may be the means of making these unfortunates very happy.

BREACH OF PROMISE CASE. The suit of Belinda B. Ellms *vs.* Daniel D. Kelley, to recover damages for a breach of promise to marry has been tried for the third time during the last two or three weeks. The trial occupied about ten days, and resulted in a verdict for the defendant. In the other trials the jury gave damages for the plaintiff, and the verdict was set aside each time.

NEWSPAPER DEAD. The *Southern Opinion*, heretofore published at Richmond, Va., announced its last publication Saturday morning. The editor says that he has for some time thought that, perhaps, the mission of the *Southern Opinion* had been fulfilled, and adds that the distinct southern principles upon which the paper was founded are dead in the hearts of the people.

PLOUGHING THE PARADE GROUND. The operation of ploughing the parade ground on the Boston Common, attracts many spectators. The plough used is one of F. F. Holbrook's National Prize Ploughs, and is doing the work finely. It is intended to lay the field down into a handsome lawn, an improvement which has long been needed.

INCOME RETURNS. The income returns for the year 1869, in the several collection districts of Massachusetts, so far as received, indicate an increase over those for 1868. Those in the Fourth District alone show that the tax will amount to $100,000 more than that collected in the preceding year.

☞ The officers of the New Hampshire State Agricultural College have elected Rev. Asa D. Smith, D. D., of Hanover, President of that institution.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

THE SWITZERLAND OF AMERICA, a vacation in the Parks and Mountains of Colorado. By Samuel Bowles; author of "Across the Continent." Boston, Lee & Shepard.

This little volume is written in Mr. Bowles' jaunty and familiar style and gives a clear idea of the great region so soon to be opened up to the American tourist. We have had government surveys, and a host of letters from newspaper correspondents, treating of the mineral resources and the vast agricultural wealth of the great West, but in them all we fail to appreciate the beauty of scenery and the innumerable details of the region over which Mr. Bowles throws such a charm in his narrative of a few weeks travel there.

The work is very timely, too, as it comes when the attention of the country is turned thither with more than usual interest on account of the opening of the great Pacific railroad. The reader will scan its pages with all the greater pleasure when he feels that he may reasonably hope to see and know something personally of the scenes he will find so pleasantly described.

We read more with an eye to the agricultural features of the country, and though this was not the point that particularly attracted the writer, who is apt to be "down" on everything agricultural, and everything designed to promote the development of this great interest, yet here and there he cannot fail to bring out the agricultural capacities of the region.

Every one who contemplates visiting Colorado should read this volume as a sort of preliminary preparation. He will find it as good as a guide book and twice as interesting.

☞ A. A. Childs & Co., 127 Tremont Street, Boston, have issued a beautiful series of card photographs, about seven by nine, of some of the best of the groups of John Rogers, who has been justly celebrated for his workmanship. They are Uncle Ned's School, The School Examination, The Wounded Scout, The Charity Patient, The Home Guard and The Council of War. They are elegantly done, and preserve all the characteristics of the originals. We recommend them as tasteful ornaments of the table, the portfolio, and the drawing-room.

☞ T. Nelson & Son, New York, have issued a collection of small prints in oil colors, of views of Boston, giving a general view of the city, and of the more important public buildings. They are in the style which was so popular some years ago, of landscape, lake, mountain, country and city views. Lee & Shephard have it, and it is sold, we presume, for fifty cents.

☞ Charles Scribner & Co., New York, are publishing a series of books in which the various phenomena of nature are treated by scientific men in a popular form, bringing down to the common comprehension the theories and experiments of the philosophers, and containing the latest results and discoveries. The last one issued is a treatise on the *Phenomena and Laws of Heat*, translated from the French of Achille Cazin, by Elihu Rich. It is very valuable and entertaining.

☞ DAISY BRIGHT, by Emma Marshall, is issued in handsome style by Henry Hoyt, in his Sunday School series of choice religious works.

☞ DOLLY DIMPLE AT SCHOOL, issued by Lee & Shepard, is one of the best stories for children. It is by Sophia May, author of "Little Prudy" stories. It will afford intense delight to the children.

☞ SALT WATER DICK, from Lee & Shepard, is the fifth of the fascinating sketches of sea going adventures for boys, called the "Helping Hand series." It goes round Cape Horn and among the South American cities.

☞ THE NORTH BRITISH REVIEW for February, and BLACKWOOD'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE for April, are received from the American publishers, the Leonard Scott Publishing Company, 140 Fulton Street, New York. The articles are many of them very interesting, and all are instructive and valuable to those who wish to keep up with the current of progress on the other side of the water. The four Reviews and Blackwood are published by the above company at fifteen dollars a year.

FIRES. Last Sunday evening a fire in the Presbyterian church in Rochester, N. Y., destroyed the tower, and badly damaged the interior. The chapel was also injured. The loss was more than covered by the insurance, $10,000.

A fire in Desmoines, Iowa, destroyed a block of stores with their contents. Loss over $30,000.

Saturday morning, the cotton factory of Hawkins Brothers, at Battenkill, was destroyed by fire. The loss was $75,000, on which there was $30,000 insurance. A dwelling house adjoining, valued at $5,000, was also destroyed. There was no insurance upon the latter building.

The Stevens' brick store in Pittston, Me., was destroyed by fire at three o'clock Tuesday morning. The basement was used for storage. E. D. Knight lost furniture to the value of $700. J. Brookings lost barrels valued at $300, upon which there was no insurance. The upper part was occupied by two families, who barely escaped with their lives, losing their entire effects. The building was valued at $5000 and insured for $2500.

In Cleveland, Ohio, Lee's Oil refinery was entirely destroyed by fire Tuesday morning. The flames communicated to Forest City Varnish Company's works, which were damaged to the extent of $15,000, on which there is a partial insurance. Mr. Lee's loss is about $15,000. He was uninsured.

MRS. GRANT'S RECEPTION.—Mrs Grant's regular reception Tuesday afternoon, like the preceding ones was a brilliant affair. The weather was delightful, and consequently there was a very large attendance. Mrs. James Paul of Philadelphia, Mrs. Gen. Hunter and Mrs. Gen. Augur assisted Mrs. Grant in receiving. The latter was attired in a corn colored moire antique dress, with rich, black low corsage and full trains, black lace shawl, coral jewelry, hair dressed with curls over the chignon, and adorned with a single pink rose. Public business detained the President until a late hour, but he made his appearance in the reception room just before four o'clock.

A MONARCH OF THE FOREST. The Woodstock (Vt.,) *Standard* says that an elm was recently cut on the old Fuller farm in Royalton, which was one hundred and twenty feet in height. The trunk was perfectly straight and sound, and measured seven feet in diameter two feet from the ground, and three feet in diameter at sixty feet from the ground, at which point the first branches started out. The tree furnished over thirty-six cords running measure of sixteen inch wood, and employed one man nearly fifteen days to fell and work it up. An attempt to count the rings made its age to be from two hundred and fifty to three hundred years.

THE CROPS IN CALIFORNIA.—The Sacramento *Union* of April 18th says that recent rains have been very beneficial to the growing crops in the State of California, and states that there never was, at the corresponding season of the year, as good a prospect for an immense grain harvest as is now presented in California. Average May showers, with westerly winds, will perfect the backward wheat fields everywhere, and produce a good deal over average crops to the acre; and there is probably a fourth greater area in wheat this year than any preceding one.

TICKETS TO THE PEACE JUBILEE. Thirteen thousand six hundred dollars were received at Music Hall, in Boston, by Mr. Peck, in two days from the date it was announced that the season tickets for the Jubilee could be obtained by subscribers. This is about one-half the amount subscribed in advance for cards of admission to the whole series of entertainments at the Coliseum.

MADRID, May 4.—A majority of the Delegates in the Cortes are in favor of a new Ministry.

FLORENCE, May 4.—Both Houses of Parliament have passed a vote of confidence in the Ministry for their endeavors to restore the financial condition of the country.

THE USE OF SALT IN GROWING CABBAGES. Ten or more years ago, in company with Dr. Tyler, then physician of the New Hamsphire Insane Asylum, I took a stroll over a portion of the farm connected with that institution. None of the crops interested me more than the field cabbages, there being nearly three thousand heads of the largest and best cabbages I had ever seen. I remarked to him that for a few weeks past the cabbage crop in my section had been almost worthless, in consequence of being clump footed. He said that a liberal application of salt to the land or to manure intended for cabbages, was a certain cure and preventive for fingers and toes, and all other "ills that the cabbage is heir to." The manure intended for cabbages received all the beef and pork brine and waste salt of the institution, amounting to many barrels each year; and since they had made use of the salted manure they had not failed to raise extra large crops, and I well remember that, for two or three previous years, cabbages from the grounds of the Insane Asylum always took the lead of all others at the New Hampshire State and county fairs.—*Concord, N. H., Statesman.*

DOCTOR SETH ARNOLD'S BALSAM challenges competition. It has a larger sale in New England than any other manufactured medicine for Bowel Complaints. It has repeatedly cured when a regular physician has given up the case as hopeless. *It will cure.* 8

MARRIAGES.

In this city, April 29, by Rev. E. A. Rand, Osman C. Webster, Esq., to Miss Clara A. Walbridge, all of Boston.

May 4, by Rev. James A. Healy, Mr. P. E. Daly to Miss J. F. Long, both of Boston Highlands.

In South Dedham, May 1, by Rev. George Hill, Francis M. Cragin, M. D., to Miss Mary E. B., daughter of Hon. Joseph Day.

In Newburyport, April 30, by Rev. J. B. Thurston, Mr. Daniel A. Brown to Miss Margaret C. Adams, both of Newburyport. Also, by Rev. Mr. Capen, Mr. John H. Jones to Miss Mary Ellen, daughter of the late Capt. John Post, all of Newburyport.

In Gloucester, April 24, by Rev. Mr. Herrick, Mr. Joseph Chase to Miss Josephina Ross.

In Ipswich, April 24, by Rev. Dr. Fitz, Mr. Orrin Benson Burnham, to Miss Mary F. Brown, both of Essex.

In Peabody, by Rev. Mr. Harvey, Mr. William F. Putnam of Boston, to Miss Nancy E., eldest daughter of Geo. W. Bancroft of P.

DEATHS.

In this city, April 30, Hiram Smith, Esq., 86 years 3 mos 14 days. May 4, William A. Noyes, 65.

In Charlestown, May 1, William H. Robbins, 28 years.

May 2, James Hunnewell, 75 yrs 2 mos 22 days. May 3, John O Pierce, 48. May 4, of paralysis, Mrs. Elizabeth M. H. Keith, wife of William H. Keith, and daughter of the late Oliver Holden, Esq., 69 years 1 month 12 days.

In Cambridge, May 3, Susie M., wife of John E. Worster, and daughter of Reuel Howard, Esq., of Waterville, Me., 27 yrs 4 mos 19 dys.

In Lynn, May 1, Sarah Ann Ingalls, widow of Sidney Ingalls, 59.

In Watertown, May 4, Martha G., wife of Charles Whitney, 54.

In Dedham, April 27, Mrs. Nancy Pierce, relict of Ebenezer S. Pierce, 81 yrs 1 mo.

In Sharon, May 3, Miss Eliza Fuller, 68 yrs.

In Lynn, May 1, Susan, wife of the late Edwin Payson.

In South Scituate, May 1, Mr. Andrew J. Bowker, 53.

In Peabody, May 2, Mrs. Sarah N., wife of Jeremiah Putnam, 58.

In Portland, May 2, Mrs. Judith Smith, relict of the late Moses Smith, 70.

In New York, April 28, of pneumonia, Henry E. Holbrook, eldest son of Henry J. Holbrook of Boston, 36 yrs 10 mos.

In Buffalo, N. Y., April 27, William Lovering, formerly of Boston, 84.

In Newburyport, April 30, Mr. Moses Sargent, 60 yrs 4 months. April 28, Mrs. Aphia Woodman, 78 yrs.

In Gloucester, April 26, Mr. Henry M. Croke, 37 yrs.

In Danvers, April 26, Mr. Nehemiah Trask, formerly of Peabody, 66 years.

In Marblehead, April 25, Mr. William Proctor, 72 yrs 5 mos 19 days.

Latest Foreign News.

BY TELEGRAPH.

MADRID, April 28.—In the Cortes yesterday, one of the Republican members made a speech in which he advocated atheistical principles, and alluded to the Christian religion in terms of disrespect. He was interrupted by Senor Rivero, the President of the Cortes, who declared that the Deputy could not be permitted to continue his remarks.

The Republicans, indignant at the decision of the President, withdrew from the Chamber.—They subsequently returned to their seats, and proposed a vote of censure against the President. A stormy debate followed, and resulted in the withdrawal of the resolution.

Canon Monterola's amendment to the Constitution, in favor of maintaining the present unity of the Catholic religion and worship in Spain was rejected.

BERLIN, April 28.—At the sitting of the Prussian Diet to-day, Count von Bismarck, in reply to an inquiry, said the convention made with the United States for the protection of emigrants on shipboard had so far failed of any practical results, owing to the obstacles in the way of establishing an international tribunal for the adjudication of the cases of complaint arising under the treaty.

LONDONDERRY, Ireland, April 29.—Serious riots occurred here yesterday between the Catholics and Orangemen. During the collisions between the two factions the police charged upon both. Firearms were freely used, several of the rioters being wounded and two killed. The riot assumed at one time fearful proportions, but the efforts of the police and the appearance of the military from the garrison finally restored quiet, and the city is now tranquil. The military will remain on duty for a day or two.

LONDON, April 29.—The proceedings in the House of Commons this evening were unusually interesting. The Irish Church bill came up. After a short debate on Mr. Disraeli's amendment to give glebe-houses to the church, the proposition was rejected.

On the clause allowing the Stone exchange with the following result: For the amendment, 220; against it, 306; Government majority, 86.

GENEVA, April 29.—It is rumored to-day that the Swiss Government has requested Joseph Mazzini to leave the country. Mazini lives at Lugano, near the Italian border, and his connection with the recent conspiracy at Florence and Milan has probably led the Italian Government to make the request mentioned.

MADRID, April 29.—A majority in the Constituent Cortes urge a prompt decision either for the Duke of Montpensier or Prince of the Asturias as king, or the declaration of a Republic. The Republicans are now said to start a national petition in favor of a Republic.

LONDON, April 30.—In the House of Commons, Mr. Bright thought the present condition of affairs in Ireland to be no cause for a panic, but urged that the question should be settled by means of the land grievance question at this session of Parliament. For himself, he would not remain on the Treasury bench, if he did not believe that he honestly and conscientiously advocating measures which would effect great and salutary changes in Ireland. The settlement of the Church question will not be the present only stages in that part of the United Kingdom, but it is the first example that any Parliament has ever given that it was willing to do justice to Ireland, and is an earnest of that intention.

Mr. Gladstone followed in support of Mr. Bright. He said that he had always found that Protestant ascendancy in the form of a religious establishment was the paramount cause of the mode in which the power of the landlords had been used and by the relations of landlord and tenants were vitally affected. He thought that Lord Stanley had anticipated too much in demanding a policy upon the land question. He feared that misapprehension would result to any representation that might be given now, but it was necessary to avoid the appearance of having suggested amendments in order to a parliamentary occasion. He concluded by saying that the Government was anxious to substitute for the present condition of the State, confidence in the country and loyalty to the Crown.

MADRID, April 30.—In the Cortes, yesterday, Senor Cuentas proposed an amendment to the new Constitution now under consideration, establishing the

READ AND RUN.

—The Czar of Russia is giving still more power to the local councils and authorities.

—Lopez, of Paraguay, has an army of ten thousand men at his hand, and intends to fight the allies whenever he can do it to good advantage.

—Mr. Sumner's speech created a terrible stir among the London journals.

—The state of popular feeling in Spain is by no means established yet. Troubles occur in various localities, and even the troops show symptoms of uneasiness.

—Great Britain demands of Spain the restoration of the brig Mary Lowell, and an outright apology for the seizure.

—Twelve brides went out to Europe on a single steamer from New York. They go by the dozen now.

—Out West they irreverently style the pulpits "preaching rinks."

—Our Boston Coliseum is rapidly becoming a "big thing." It takes a good half hour to see the outside of it.

—They have real gypsies in a county in New York that carry off real children. It's a real shame.

—A physician of the Ludlow street jail, in New York, is said to have prescribed a dose of oats for a person who had broken his ribs.

—Libel suits are flying around as thick as a flock of birds in New York and Philadelphia.

—Mr. Barnum recently testified that if anybody ought to be a judge of humbugs, it was he—as he had made a fortune by them.

—Canada breaks out in some very bright spots in favor of independence, of course with an ultimate view to annexation.

—Spain can't as yet make up her mind. It must be a monarch or a republic very soon, or another rampus among the people.

—The army is being again recruited, and people are asking what it means.

—It is amusing to read over the croaking articles which the British press wrote about us, during our war with Mexico. They prophecied all manner of evil things for us as a people, and thought we were even then close upon our end.

—In American Museum of Natural History to be established in New York.

—Many of the newspaper descriptions of the remarkable aurora are after the true dry goods pattern.

—American carriage wheels are exported to England, they are so much lighter, and so much ironed.

—The last surviving sister of the original race of Rothschild has just deceased, at the age eighty-five.

—Sheep have been indiscriminately slaughtered in Iowa, during the past winter, and fed to the crows. They were worth only their pelts.

—The French Assembly broke up in a din of hooting sounds, one party shouting "long live the Emperor!" and the other "long live Liberty!" The elections are to come off shortly.

—Gen. Robert E. Lee intends to keep his College in the front rank, by introducing all the higher methods and aims of education. There is a department of agriculture with the rest.

—The work on Hell Gate, near New York, is stopped for want of funds.

—Cuban affairs do not develope to a decisive military test. Summer and sickness will prove strong allies of the islanders.

—Snow in one place, and buds and blossoms in another—is what we find very common descriptions of in our New England exchanges.

—The attempt to hang a murderer in Prince Edwards Island was one of the most brutal affairs we have read of anywhere.

—The prospects of fruit, and especially peaches, are reported to be excellent, but that happens to be the very worst state of the case for crops. That wants more cold and wet at the starting time.

—Two investigating committees of the New York Legislature that had been down to New York, rendered liquor bills for four hundred dollars.

—The national Sunday School Convention, to be held in Newark, N. J., was a grand success. George H. Stuart, of Philadelphia, was chosen President.

—Horses need comb and brush as much as hands. And cows like the same thing, and give fine and sleek under it.

—The Government has answered to the proposition of Mexico to sell us land, that we can pay it no more money from the treasury for that object.

—Tastes just now gladdens the hearts of na ive Rhode Islanders with its plenty.

—No grasshoppers in Texas, but an abundance often in Illinois.

—Land is fast advancing in Virginia, having become ten times as valuable as it was four years ago.

—A two hundred and ten pound nugget of gold has been found by a couple of Australian miners, who supposed they were gone up until they found the big treasure.

—Our rumic plant, which is to supersede cotton, has been sent for by the Pashas of Egypt.

—Napoleon has recently made a grant of fifty acres to each of the soldiers of the First Empire.

—A rhinoceros escaped from a caravan of wild beasts in one of the counties of New York, and took pleasantly to the water.

—Virginia strawberries will shortly be blushing in our expectant market.

—May is certainly "cold and wet" enough for the purposes of grass.

—The head cook of ex-Queen Isabella gets only dollars a day for his services.

—And now Fisk, Jr., proposes to keep a hotel.

—There has been held a very large Cuban sympathy meeting in Philadelphia.

—The Sioux want more war. They are not yet satisfied.

—There is a person in Boston who rides the slackrope on a tight rope.

—The oldest railroad depot in the country has been destroyed by fire in Pennsylvania.

—June will be a busy and a crowded month for Boston, with its list of shows, festivals, celebrations, and conventions.

—They can't have May Queens in New York, we do in Boston, they are so taken up with swing.

—Juarez wants to sell us certain provinces of Mexico, in order to obtain money with which to quiet the rest.

—The republican leaders in the Spanish Cortes attack the new constitution with great vigor, declaring "on the European plan" means taking a back seat, which is not the right way to live, by any manner of means.

—Gen. Ire has called on Gen. Grant at the White House.

—The expenses of the government for the last month were a little short of twenty millions.

—The President will not meddle as between the two parties in the Cuban revolution, but preserve a strict neutrality.

—The Munder spirit photograph case in New York was finally dismissed.

—Chief Justice Chase has gone as far South as Charleston, to hold courts.

—People find it cheaper to travel in Europe, this summer, than to frequent the fashionable watering places, and a great many will pass the season abroad accordingly.

—The South generally is hopeful and industrious, and for the first time since the war has money ahead, and pays cash for what it purchases.

—The last thing out is a scheme for farming by inches.

—The season is reckoned to be just two weeks ahead of last year at this period.

—May Day was cold, wet, stormy and characteristic. There's no sort of use trying to make anything like a festival out of it.

—A new novel is to be produced with the title "Red as a Rose is She." It will most likely be well read.

—Spain gets thirty-two millions a year out of Cuba, and that is reason enough for her holding on to the island with so desperate a clutch.

—A machine for making cigars is on exhibition in this city, and a stock company is to be organized to operate it. It will all end in smoke, of course.

—The velocipede mania is running to some ridiculous lengths.

—Ireland is shelling out her emigrants to this country at an unprecedented rate.

—East winds have been a sore trial to thousands of people hereabouts this spring.

—Dr. Adams' church in Essex street, in this city, is abandoned to the march of traffic. It has stood just fifty years.

—A young American girl, who is training for a public singer in Paris, promises to be a second Malibran.

—The apprentice system is criticized, and wants reforming.

—The overflow of the Mississippi has so badly damaged the cotton that it will have to be planted all over again, or pieced out with corn.

—Gen. Grant will not visit California this summer, but he will come to Boston.

—The Spanish Cortes has refused by vote to adopt the Roman Catholic as the religion of the nation.

—A great many people have gone to Europe to live, because there they find so much more comfort and convenience in the ordinary matters of life, attended with half the expense.

—By the terms of the new treaty, France is at liberty to establish schools in Madagascar, and Madagascar in France.

CUBAN AFFAIRS. — Despatches were received Wednesday, at the Navy Department, from Rear Admiral Hoff, commanding the North Atlantic squadron, dated Havana, April 27. He arrived at Havana on April 26th, having left Pensacola on the 21st. Admiral Hoff says:

I found upon my arrival that political matters in Cuba were exceedingly quiet. There was an expedition supposed to have started from Yucatan, consisting of a large steamer and several sailing vessels which attempted to land men and arms for the Cubans on the South side, in the Western Department, near a place known as Pinar del Rio, but failed. The Spanish Admiral has left Havana in his flagship, accompanied by several other vessels, in search of the party, but no news has yet been received from him.

The transport having on board the political prisoners that left about a month since, supposed to have sailed for Fernando Po, has put into St. Johns, Porto Rico, for repairs, and the Captain General of the Island has determined to send some of the passengers to the Cunaires and the balance to Cadiz.

Both Cubans and Spaniards seem to be exceedingly quiet, and there have been no successes lately on either side. Nothing can be heard of the movements at present, but I shall continue to keep the department informed of the facts and rumors that may come to my knowledge.

POSTMASTERS APPOINTED. Postmaster General Creswell has made the following appointments:

Maine—Samuel R. Porter, at Mercer, vice E. P. Welts resigned; Alfred B. Crabtree at Hancock, vice F. Moore removed; G. Nolin at Fayette, vice H. B. Lovejoy resigned; Edward W. Bush at Vassalboro', vice H. Pishon resigned; Richard Hines at Falmouth, vice M. C. Merrill resigned.

New Hampshire—Isaiah Winch at Meredith Village, vice J. Smith, Jr., removed.

No recent appointments have been made in Massachusetts, Vermont, or Rhode Island, but forty or more of Johnson Postmasters in Connecticut have been removed.

THE POTATO SPECULATORS. It is said that the farmers who have been holding back their potatoes for large prices are getting badly demoralized, and are rushing them to market at fearfully *low rates*. A Mishigan paper says that farmers in portions of that State are obliged to sell potatoes at fifteen cents per bushel, for which they refused $1 50 last fall, and that they have a very large stock on hand.

THE WORKING WOMEN'S LEAGUE. The provisional officers of the Working Women's League held their first session a few days since, and transacted the preliminary business for the formation of an association which would enable them in a combined manner to assert their rights. A report was adopted setting forth that skilled work women were the natural and only counsellors of the unskilled; deprecating the existence of so many intelligence offices in the hands of dishonest persons, and opposing the establishment of a gigantic employment bureau; advocating, however, the founding of an office on entirely new principles, to be managed by working women and not employing agencies. The League believing that little money as possible should pass through its hands; and, lastly, that a change in the legislation of the Commonwealth is the only thing that will relieve the destitution weighing upon the working people. A resolution was adopted requesting Mayor Shurtleff to act as Provisional General Superintendent of the League. A provisional constitution was also adopted. It provides that any working woman may become a member of the League by signing the constitution—no admission fee or assessment to be exacted. No person not a working woman shall be a member of the League or hold office in it, except the General Superintendent; and the General Superintendent shall be either the Mayor of the city, or one of the Aldermen, or an editor of one of the first class city journals, or a citizen of wealth and standing, who is over sixty years of age. A hall shall be hired and kept by the janitor, who will maintain an intelligence bureau, and receive no fees for her services. The duty of the General Superintendent shall be to conduct the financial department.—*Post.*

DOMESTIC SUMMARY.

—Referring to Bethel, Me., the Bangor *Whig* says that thousands of bushels of potatoes are now in the hands of the farmers in that town which they might have sold last fall and winter at from sixty to seventy-five cents a bushel, but thinking one dollar would be better in the spring, many kept them over, while now only thirty and forty cents are offered.

—Mr. Henry J. Raymond, of the New York *Times* newspaper, and the financial editor of the same journal, Mr. Norvell, have been sued by the Erie directors for libel, the total damages claimed footing up $1,200,000. Mr. Norvell gave bail in the sum of $25,000. He claims the suits are part of a conspiracy to prevent him from criticising the Erie ring in his columns.

—The deep snow of the past winter has been particularly favorable for the destructive operations of the meadow mole and other vermin. The Cincinnati (O.,) *Journal* says many young orchards in that vicinity have been girdled by them, and a considerable quantity of hay in the stack destroyed by their destructive propensity of burrowing.

—At the famous White Pine mines a man was recently hired to dig a grave for one who had died there. When the funeral procession arrived at the grave the digger was in it, and refused to leave, declaring that he had "struck a five lead," and could not think of allowing the body to be buried "in the hole."

—On Monday Mr. Ephraim Pickering found the body of a man in the river on Fox Island, in the town of Newington, N. H., which proved to be the body of Benj. Williams, a farmer in Newmarket, who has been missing since the 17th of last December.—His death was undoubtedly accidental.

—Speculators in butter and potatoes have come to grief. In New York the farmers are compelled to sell the butter and potatoes which they have been keeping all the winter, at a lower price than they would have obtained for the same articles in October and November last.

—For the past two months three vessels have been constantly employed in freighting lumber to Martha's Vineyard Camp Ground, and carpenters are erecting cottages and other buildings. It is estimated that some five hundred cottages will be built this season, most of them on Oak Bluffs.

—It will require about 200 vessels to freight the ice harvest of Gardiner to Southern markets. The Knickerbocker Ice Company, of Philadelphia, which has stored 50,000 tons in Gardiner, has placed a tow-boat on the river to expedite the passage of the freighters.

—The Richmond *Whig* has a half column of sales of land in Virginia, in all cases to Northern men. It says these lands have been purchased by *bona fide* settlers, and not mere speculators.

—Capt. John Bridges, of Maine, superintendent of the crypt at the Capitol, has resigned his position, to take effect June 30th. Congress abolished this office at its last session.

—The picker room and dye house of Mr. Sampson Almy's woolen mill, in Plainfield, were destroyed by fire on Saturday week.—Loss about $3,000—covered by an insurance.

New Advertisements.

Wonderful!

Fales' Concentrated Fertilizer

IS proving *wonderful* by experiments made this Spring on Grass, Lettuce in hot beds, Strawberries and House Plants.

Better results have been produced than have ever been realized by any other fertilizer.

WHITTEMORE, BELCHER & CO.,
my8-2tE **34 Merchants Row, Boston.**

Notice.

MR. RICHARD WARD retires from our firm this day, by mutual consent.
WM. H. WENTWORTH & CO.
Boston, May 1, 1869. my8-3t*

Get the Best.

ALL parties in want of superior CROCKERY, GLASS WARE and PAPER HANGINGS, are invited to call and examine the new and varied assortment just opened by
my8 ouw-tf H. E. WARREN, Lexington, Mass.

The New England SELF QUILLING CRANK LOOM

IS the best thing out. Every farmer who raises wool should have one. Send stamp for Circular, to D. M. DUNHAM & CO., Bangor, Me. my8-3t

Sweet Potato Slips.

FROM acclimated seed, or seed raised in the South at 75 cents per hundred, and a present of the celebrated Gen. Grant Tomato plants in proportion to slips ordered—sent to any part of New England with safety. Directions how to cultivate and to keep them sent on receipt of order for plants. Set from 20th of May to 20th of June.
CALEB BATES,
my8-3t Kingston, Mass.

A Pleasant and Healthy Beverage,

DR. IRISH'S
OTTAWA BEER,

Is a cooling and pleasant beverage, more fully quenching the thirst than any article in use, which makes it particularly sought after as a summer drink, and only requires a fair trial to be appreciated.

SOUTHMAYD & CO.,
Cor. of Tremont & Bromfield Sts.
Are the sole agents for the sale of rights for New England. my8-4tE

FRIENDS, for valuable information, address, (with stamp) HARRIS BROTHERS, Boston, Mass. Agents wanted. my8-4tE

Prices Reduced.

One Peck for $5 delivered in any place in the United States.

THE season being so far advanced, I will sell the balance of my stock of this valuable variety, at the following prices:

1 pound or more by mail postage paid,		.50
1 peck, (15 pounds)	" "	$5.00
1 peck, (15 ")	by Express,	3.50
1 2 bushel, (30 pound)	" "	6.00
1 Bushel, (60 pounds),	" "	11.00
1 barrel, (165 lbs.)	" "	30.00

☞ A few barrels of second size Potatoes (none of the smallest put in) at special rates.

☞ Cash to be sent with the order invariably.
☞ Orders packed and delivered at Express or Post Office free, when our responsibility ceases.
☞ Orders filled the day they are received.
☞ Order immediately, as this advertisement will not appear again.
Address
GEO. W. BEST,
13 Broad St., Utica, N. Y.

Henry A. Hall's Patent Improved India Rubber Ankle Guard.

For preventing horses from interfering.

These guards are arranged with series of independent feelers, flexible as they are different in size, and with French patent leather to prevent removing the hair, and upon the principle of the ball of straw commonly used (which is effectual but not durable). They like it they will last forever, and can be cleaned in an instant. They need only be seen to be appreciated as superior to all other appliances for interfering or close travelling horses and colts.

Forwarded to all parts of the country by express, on receipt of $1, at HALL'S RUBBER WAREHOUSE, 35 Milk Street, Boston, Mass., where is constantly on hand a large variety of goods adapted to horses and carriages. my8-4t

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Worcester, ss. Probate Court.
To the Heirs-at-Law, Next of Kin, and all other persons interested in the estate of LOVINA WHEELER, late of Princeton, in said County, deceased.

UPON the petition of ASAHEL BALCOM, you are hereby cited to appear at a Probate Court, to be held at Worcester, in said County, on the first Tuesday of June next, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any you have, why an instrument purporting to be the last will and testament of said deceased, should not be approved, and also why said Balcom the executor therein named, should not be exempted from giving a surety or sureties on his bond.

And the said Balcom is ordered to serve this citation, by publishing the same once a week, three weeks successively, in the Massachusetts Ploughman, a newspaper printed at Boston, the last publication to be one day at least, before said Court, and to send, or cause to be sent a written or printed copy of this notice, properly mailed, postage prepaid, to each of the heirs, devisees, or legatees of said estate, or their legal representatives, known to the petitioner, seven days, at least, before said Court.

Witness, HENRY CHAPIN, Esquire, Judge of said Court, this fourth day of May, in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-nine.
CHAS. E. STEVENS, Register.
my8-3t

FARMING BY INCHES introduces to you Mr. and Mrs. Robert Nelson, of Aranac, a thrifty manufacturing town, some fifty miles from the city, where they formerly resided.

At that time Mr. Nelson was head bookkeeper in a large down town commission house, and by over work and too close application soon found himself prostrated, and was sent home in a carriage one winter's morning.

Six weeks' sickness followed, when his physician ordered him to give up his position, go into the country and find out door employment, as the only way to regain health and prolong his life.

The death of an uncle in Aranac brought him in possession of a "Three Acre Farm," and the ordered conversion of it into a country market—he then returning from the city, where they were forced to go weekly to buy early vegetables, which their customers would have and their local farmers would not bother to raise, suggested to himself and wife the plan of setting up for the season as "Sass Farmers," as these market men termed them.

How they succeeded—what they raised—how they did it—what it cost them—what they sold it for—is told so clearly in such a business like way that the story convinces you that it is just what it is, a true story of actual experience.

Their first year's sales amounted to.....$1271 00
Their 2d " " 2100 00
Their 3d " " 3000 00

and has remained thereabouts ever since. The author says: "My object in giving you this little sketch of our agricultural experience is to show you or some one else, situated as we were, a safe and profitable field where you can earn both health and bread if you are so inclined."

Fifty Cents **buys a the Book**
LORING, Publisher,
my8-1t BOSTON

Tsing Tea...Black Dragon Chop!

NATURAL LEAF, perfectly pure (TSING signifies pure). Prepared without any coloring or foreign substance. Cured on porcelain (not copper), over a slow fire. Delightful flavor, exceedingly powerful and strong. Chinese will the healthy virtues of the Tea plant. Manufactories and higher class of natives use no other.

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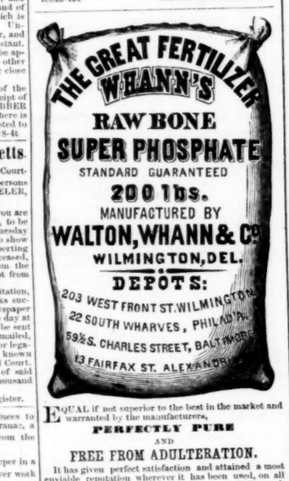

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Will stand for Mares the ensuing season, at the stables of the Society, Bussey Farm, West Roxbury.
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THE QUALITY OF THE HAY CROP
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For Simplicity, Durability and Ease of Operation,
UNEQUALLED!
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Durable, Light Draft, Cutting the Grass in the very best manner.

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Superphosphate of Lime,
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WILSON'S TOBACCO GROWER,
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Send for one or more, for yourself and neighbor.

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THOROUGHBRED DEVON BULL, with *full pedigree*. The "Hurlburt importation" preferred, with age, weight, price, &c. Address
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FOR SALE.

EGGS of the AMERICAN SILK WORM. Orders are now received by the subscriber for the eggs of the American Silk Worm, *entirely unlike*, which feeds upon the leaves of the common oaks, at the following prices. One to ten thousand, $3 00 per thousand. Above ten thousand, $4 00 per thousand. Eggs which filled early in June, before which time all applications must be made and money sent by Post Office draft.

Full information regarding the propagation of the valuable silk worm, may be obtained from Nos. 1, 2 and 3, of the "American Naturalist," published by the Peabody Academy of Science, Salem, Mass.

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FOR THE COMPLEXION.

THE Elderflower Balm will beautify the complexion, render the skin clear, pure and youthful.

It will remove Tan, Moth Spots, Freckles, Sunburns, and will cure all Pimples, Eruptions, Impurities, Irritations and Facial Sores.

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EARLY ROSE per pound, 50 cents, by mail, 60 cts. EARLY GOODRICH per bushel, $1 50, by express, $1 75, one barrel, $4 50. HARRISON per bushel, $1 50, by express, $1 75, one barrel, $4 50. Asparagus Roots (strong) 75 cents per 100. W. H. HILLS,
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1000 EXTRA Fine APPLE TREES, four years old. 1000 PEACH TREES, New England growth. Also, all kinds of Fruit and Ornamental Trees and Shrubs.
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THE subscriber having received the Agency from T. Hembroock & Bushnell, (successors to Dr. Grant of Iona,) for the sale of the Emeline and all the other varieties of Grapes grown by them, he will fill all orders at their lowest cash prices. Please send for Catalogue.

Horseradish Sets at $10,00 per thousand, or $1,25 per hundred.

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IMPROVED HORSE HOE,

Furnished with Wooden Frames,

For the Cultivation and H

The Poet's Corner.

THE SECRET IN THE AIR.

Not a leaf is on the beech, not a blossom on the elm;
And all the green is in the grass and in the velvet moss;
For the hues of livid purple e'en the ivies overwhelm,
And the willows that are first brown and barren branches toss.

But a secret in the smiling air, whose breezes come and go,
Doing service unproclaimed upon the hill and in the vale,
And the gaiety and force that are beating to and fro
In the swarms of little wingletts, seem to hint a pleasant tale.

Yes, the flowers under earth, and the leaves within the mud,
Must be waiting for the promised change of sunny life to come;
Must be waiting like the children that with spirits on the flood
Are all eager for the mystery that gathers them at home.

The clouds have covered heaven, but they cannot shed a gloom,
Though not a ray of shining gold doth slant upon the earth;
And the air is more transparent, and they wear a whiter bloom,
And everywhere, but half suppressed, there lurks a well of mirth.

The branch hath taken a softer brown, the bud a richer black,
The note of birds is rounding into sweeter swell and power,
Earth and Heaven both are listening to far steps upon the track
That leadeth toward their winter withered, leafless abandoned bower.

And lo! a joyous leaping in the rosy springs of life,
And the South's caressing kisses on the cheek and eye and brow,
And the ankle as if winged, and the limb with vigor rife,
Make the bosom light with pleasure that the spring is coming now!

Ladies' Department.

From Chambers' Journal.

DRAWN FROM THE LIFE.

MR. JOHN STOTT'S DIFFICULTY.

Less than forty years ago, in a certain west country town of England, lived Mr. John Stott, head of the constabulary, so astute a thief-catcher, that his friends thought it a pity he should throw his wits away upon provincial vagabonds, and not give them broad and noble scope as a Bow Street runner. His enemies, the local scoundrels, thought the same; but contented themselves with observing darkly that "he was so sharp that he would one day probably cut himself," or that "he was too clever to live." In spite of these intellectual advantages, or in consequence of them, Mr. Stott was as vain as a peacock, and made the not uncommon mistake of imagining himself a cleverer fellow than he really was. He kept the little town (for it was a little one then) so clear of evil doers, that, to his complimentary thereupon by the bench of magistrates, that he could not conceive that any misdemeanor could be committed which his sagacity should be unable to ferret out, or should fail to bring it home to the true culprit. "I don't pretend for to say," was one of his favorite remarks, "as I was *never* puzzled in my profession, but this I *will* say, as no man ever took me in *twice*," and then he would resume his pipe with the air of a man who has modestly confessed to a weakness, which no other person would have dreamed of attributing to him. Even his wife believed in Mr. John Stott, and so doubtless would his *valet de chambre*, if he had happened to have kept one.

"Burglary at Sir Robert Air's last night," said he sententiously, as he sat smoking after supper in his snug little parlor, one summer evening, while his wife mixed his gin punch after his own particular receipt.

"You don't say so!" said Mrs. Stott, of course," observed Mrs. Stott, paring the lemon peel so that you could see through it, "or else it would not be my John."

"Well, no," returned the great man rightly appropriating the last observation as a compliment rather than an expression of doubt as to his personal identity. "The fact is, it's very queer; but I have *not* got the wretches. I shall have them to-morrow, but at present they are absolutely at large."

"Lor, John! I can scarcely believe you when you tell me. Why, how on earth could they have got away from you? They could not have been ordinary burglars."

"You are right, ma'am," returned the chief constable with a gratified look, "you have hit the nail exactly on the head. They were not ordinary men; they were acrobats."

"Acrobats!" answered Mrs. Stott softly; "dear me!"

She had no very accurate idea what "acrobats" were; they might be a religious sect, or they might be a savage tribe, or possibly even both. But she had long passed for a woman of sense and sagacity, through maintaining a discreet silence, except when her husband's talents seemed to demand her eulogies, and she was not going to risk that reputation now. She had a full share of the curiosity of her sex, but she had more than their ordinary patience. She would be informed upon the subject in question, without hazarding the remark which occurred to her, that acrobats had white hair and pink eyes, and therefore could at least be easily recognized by the constabulary; and she had not to wait long.

"Yes, it must have been them tumblers," mused Mr. Stott, sipping his punch out of the teaspoon; "and less than three, and the boy could never have done it. It was her Ladyship's dressing room window, as looks out on the back, as they broke in at, and no ladder could have been put there because of the flower stand. It must have been that little imp in the tights and spangles at top of the three others. I have measured the height from the ground, and it just tallies. That's what comes of allowing them itinerants to be in the place at all. The idea of the mayor letting them have the Town-hall to shew their tricks in! I'd put a stop to everything of that sort, if I had my way; and I will do it too in future."

"But you will not interfere with Mr. Shaw, John, I do hope, since he has been so pleasant and civil."

"No, ma'am, no. Mr. Shaw is a man of science, in his line, and what is more, a man of substance. Mr. Shaw's exhibition is itinerant, it is true, but that is from the necessity of the case. His collection of wild animals is interesting in a high degree, as the rector was observing to me only yesterday. But them acrobats is quite another matter. However, lessons as they are, they must run a little faster, and climb a little higher, I can promise them, before they can get out of the reach of John Stott."

"They stood upon one another's shoulders, and the boy clambered up them, I suppose?"

"Yes ma'am, that was their ingenious method; and if they had had to do with a common mind—though I say it who should not say it—the manner in which the thing was done would have been a mystery. If a ladder had been used, it must have left some mark upon the mignonette box. My men were all agape when I stated that circumstance, and began looking up in the air, as if some bird had done it. But, of course, when I said "Them Tumblers!" they saw everything clear enough. Sir Robert, who assisted our investigations in person, was so good as to say that I reminded him of Christopher Columbus and his egg."

"You don't say so!" said Mrs. Stott admiringly, and wondering within herself what that story was, and whether Mr. Christopher Columbus could possibly have been an oviparous animal. "And did her Ladyship lose much?"

"Some rings and pins, and three or four pounds in gold. Curiously enough, there was a bundle of bank notes upon the dressing table which entirely escaped the young rogue's attention, or her loss would have been much more serious."

"And yet, he was such a frank faced, honest looking little fellow, that I never should have thought harm of him," said good natured Mrs. Stott; "but of course you're right."

"Well, most probably," observed her lord and master with a short dry chuckle. "By ten o'clock to-morrow morning, when the justices meet we shall have this honest looking young gentleman and his friends in the town hall, taking part in a public performance of another kind than that which they favored the town last week. And then we shall see what we shall see."

Mr. Stott arose, took his official hat down from its peg, and prepared to go the rounds, a nightly precaution he seldom omitted, notwithstanding the absence of all native criminals from his strictly preserved territory; as for the acrobats, they had fled with the first dawn of morning, and were not likely to return till they were brought back; but he had despatched two of his small "force" in pursuit of them, and hence there was the more need for his personal vigilance.

"I shall be back at two, as usual, my dear, if not before," said Mr. John Stott.

About two A. M., from long habit, the wife of the chief constable was accustomed to awake and presently to hear her husband's heavy footfall coming up the stairs; but upon the present occasion there was no such welcome sound. She sat up in bed with her nightcap tucked behind her ears, and listened attentively, but in vain, for him. Notwithstanding his precarious calling, Mr. Stott was a model of punctuality, and as time (which in her opinion was almost the only thing that could do it) went on without him, she began to be seriously alarmed lest this admirable man, whom human ingenuity had never yet baffled, had been overwhelmed by envious Fate. There had been thunder in the air that night, and a bolt might have struck him. But at daylight she heard the front door open, and a slow tread come up the stairs. The wife of a chief constable should be above the suspicion of trepidation, but it was so unlike his ordinary step, that it made her heart go pitapat. However, it was her husband, whose noble spirit something had evidently cast down. Instead of kicking his boots across the room as usual, he drew them off, and then sat in his stockings, thinking.

"John," said she, in much confusion and alarm; "what *is* the matter my dear? Have you not caught them albatresses?—I mean albinos?"

"Yes, ma'am, *they* are safe enough. But the deuce of it is that—in their absence—there has been another burglary. Mrs. Colonel Pewitt's house has been broken into just the same way—through the second floor back window. It's nothing less than magic for *that* had a mignonette box, and there was no mark of a ladder to be found there neither. I've had my bull's eye over every square inch of it."

"Lor, John!"

"There was nobody in the room," went on the chief constable musing, "and the window was open, so that the thing might have been easy enough when he had once got there. But how he ever *did* get there—that's the question—unless the imp had wings."

"But the imp has wings!" was Mrs. Stott's involuntary exclamation; the good lady was so flustered by her late anxiety that for once she spoke in a hurry.

"You will presently cause me to imagine that I have made a *second* mistake in my life, ma'am—in the having married a fool," was the husband's stern rejoinder. Then he went on soliloquizing. The thief, whoever he was, took the same things—rings and pins, and such like; but he also took a plaited inkstand. That looks as if he did not know his trade. And yet, to have effected an entrance just where nobody would have thought such a thing practicable, he must have been most uncommon cunning. Cunning? No, for then I should see the thing as plain as the church tower. It's downright unaccountable. How it is humanly possible that things can be stole out of a second floor window without a ladder, or anything to climb up by, unless it's a water spout—*that's* what I want to know. And what's more, even if he got up, how did he ever get down again?"

Hearing these remarks put aloud, and in an interrogative form, Mrs. Stott thought it incumbent upon her to speak, and more so, as she had ingeniously elaborated a theory of her own to account for the whole mystery.

"If nobody could have got in from the outside, John, people as was inside could have done it easy enough. Was every one of them trapesing servant girls, who dresses so fine, and is always wanting money to buy gewgaws, you may take my word for it."

"I don't suppose, ma'am," returned the chief constable with supreme contempt, "that the Bench of Justices would take your word for it,' even if I was weak enough to do so—which I am not. The servants are all above suspicion, both at Sir Robert's and Mrs. Peewit's—that was the first thing as we looked to—of course. But except for that, or otherwise, do you suppose that thieving is an epidemic, that it should break out in one household to-day, and in another to-morrow, as this has done. You had better go to sleep, ma'am, and leave me to think the matter out alone." Which, accordingly, this great man, having drawn his nightcap on, the better to consider in, proceeded to do. "Two burglaries on two following nights, in a town under his personal superintendence, and nobody yet taken up! Why, it would be insinuated that such a blot could befall his 'scutcheon! It was not impossible, in a town so slenderly guarded, that a ladder might have been employed without detection, but, most certainly in neither of these cases had such an instrument been used. The flower boxes had, in both instances, projected beyond the sill, so that the top of any ladder must have rested on them, and left its mark. There was also no trace of the foot of it in the soft mold below—sign of an attempt to remove such trace—although, in the case of Sir Robert's house, there was a flower bed immediately beneath the window." Mr. Stott, in short, brought all his intelligence to bear upon this problem in vain, and nothing came of it but headache.

Next day, the whole town was in a state of intense alarm. The previous robbery had created much excitement among the inhabitants, but not so much on account of the crime as of the sagacious manner in which their chief constable had discovered the mode of depredation; but now, not only had a second outrage been committed, but the fact of its occurrence while the acrobats were away had proved their innocence of this particular offence (though the magistrates, not knowing how else to account for their seizure, committed them for a month, as rogues and vagabonds), and negatived Mr. John Stott's solution of the riddle altogether. The chairman of the Bench, who had been accustomed to suck that official's brains before addressing his audience in the town hall, had nothing to say upon the subject except to recommend people to shut their second floor windows, which, since it was very warm weather, and most of them cultivated flower boxes, did not give general satisfaction.

The next night, the mayor's own house was robbed in a precisely similar manner.

It was on a Friday, and the local papers which came out the next day, published second and third editions, to describe the details. Besides the burglary, a sort of sacrilege had been committed. The thief had actually possessed himself of the Municipal Mace. This beautiful object, although not intrinsically valuable, had apparently excited his greed, for he had dragged it out of its case as far as the window, and thence let it fall with a report that had alarmed the house, and dented the ground below. When the door was opened, however (which the servants declined to do, until the "proper authorities" arrived), the marauder had vanished, and with him this Emblem of Authority, as well as a pair of his Lordship's boot hooks. There happened to be nothing kept in that room but the mayor's boots and the town mace. But the incident was, of course, as distressing to Mr. John Stott as though the regalia had been plundered. He felt that his great reputation was giving way under these repeated shocks; while the rest of the constabulary were of course overwhelmed with disgrace; and the Tory newspaper openly advocated "stringent measures" and the calling out of the Yeomanry.

"I suppose," sighed his wife, upon this Saturday afternoon, "there is no chance of your going with me to the Show? And yet it seems such a pity, after that civil Mr. Shaw has sent us these tickets; and you know I never enjoy anything—let it be wild beasts, or what not—without you, John. How fine they look, with this picture of the lion and the unicorn—though the bill says the unicorn is dead—with *Shaw's Show*, 'patronised by all the crowned heads of Europe,' and 'admit the bearer,' with his autograph in the corner, in red ink! Why, the mayor's own invitations are not more splendid."

"Don't talk of the mayor, woman, for that makes me think of the mace," replied her husband with a shiver. "I don't wish to see any show but one, and that's the man that stole that mace with a pair of handcuffs on him, or what would be better still, a standing underneath a bit of wood, with a rope round his neck, and a parson by his side. But there; it's no good wishing. Upon my life, I sometimes wonder if the devil himself is not a doing on it all, to vex me"

"Lor, John, you make me creep?"

"Well, I can't make you fly, I reckon," replied Mr. Stott surlily; "and yet that's what this fellow can do, confound him! He's like a bird of the air—a bird of prey."

"Well, John, do you know I can't help sometimes thinking—only I would not have mentioned it unless *you* had—that, perhaps, after all, it *is* a bird! You know a magpie is a thief by nature."

"And so you suppose a magpie could have stolen the town mace, do you? Why, you are a greater fool than the newspapers."

"I forgot the mace, John," observed Mrs. Stott humbly.

"I wish *I* could forget it," growled the chief constable. "You had better put on your bonnet, and take my ticket round the corner to Mrs. Jones, who will be glad enough to go with you; only take care Shaw don't keep you both, and put you in a cage for a pair of owls. There, I'm sorry to be so rude, Mrs. Stott; but the fact is I feel as I shall go out of my mind unless I tackle this mystery; and I must be left alone to think it out."

So Mrs. Stott, obedient wife as she was, attired herself in gorgeous apparel, and accompanied by her friend and neighbour, the parish doctor's wife, honored Mr. Shaw's menagerie with her presence. It was a sort of fete which that practical student of Natural History (which included some knowledge of mankind) had given to the inhabitants of the town, and everything was on a very splendid scale. The show was lit up by rows of chandeliers, made of circlets of wood and candles, from the latter of which, as they of necessity hung very low, the tallow dripped upon the heads of the company; but that was not found out till the next morning. The floor and cages had been thoroughly swept and garnished, and some attempt had even been made, by means of unguents and spices (or, in other words, chlorate of lime,) to mitigate the odors that hang about all establishments devoted to the reception of wild beasts. But it must be confessed that this last refinement was a failure—it was like the jar of *otter*, which, "do what you will, the scent of the roses would cling to it still;" only in this case the perfume was the result of a combination; the hyena and the musk rat, the royal Bengal tiger and the marmoset, each contributed their *soupcon*. In place of the usual showman, Mr. Shaw himself, with an elegant white wand, pointed out the various objects of interest, explained their habits, and narrated anecdotes of their extraordinary sagacity. The monkey cages, as usual, were the chief attraction; their innocent gambols, and the remarkable *penchant* they exhibited for biting each other's tails, were the admiration of the beholders. Mrs. Stott, while regarding these parodies upon mankind with a contemplative air, was very nearly—indeed literally within half an inch or so—paying a great penalty for her philosophic abstraction. A ribbed face baboon of gigantic size, looking not unlike one of Mr. Cooper's Indian heroes in his war paint, made a snatch at her fingers, which, I afeard with rings, happened to be ungloved, for she had just been taking refreshments.

"Your charms even vanquish the brute creature, Mrs. Stott," observed the clerk to the magistrates gallantly; "the enamoured animal seeks your hand."

"Yes; but, like the rest of the male sex, for what is in it, or on it," replied Mrs. Jones, who had been an heiress in a small way, till her husband removed from her that invidious distinction by spending all her money.

The ribbed face baboon screamed with disappointment, and swung by his rope headforemost, and with his eyes shut, for the rest of the evening.

It was I A. M., and the chief constable's wife had been in bed since midnight, but she had not yet fallen asleep. She was waiting the arrival of Mr. Stott, in hopes that in his then state of mind, and rejoined Mr. Stott with his old confident air; "I *have* found it out. And now let me hear how far your testimony goes in corroboration of my views."

The next day, "from information received," as he darkly hinted, the chief constable apprehended the keeper of the menagerie, and searched his house on wheels with such effect that all the stolen property was recovered. Mr. Shaw, it appeared, had trained the ribbed face baboon to climb up water spouts and sweep from dressing tables all articles that glittered, which accounted for his taking the plated inkstand and the municipal mace. If his education had been suffered to progress, he would doubtless in time have been taught to carry off bank notes and railway dividends. But, thanks to Mrs. Stott, his occupation was henceforth gone. The chief constable, however, got all the credit for the discovery, and was held by every ody, including his wife, in higher estimation for sagacity than ever. It was true that he had been at fault at first, and in more than one instance; but then, as he himself observed: "I may still say as no man ever took me in twice—for this was not a man, but a hape."

The above curious incident happened at Shrewsbury in 1834, and was without doubt the circumstance on which Edgar Poe founded his famous story of *The Murder in the Rue Morgue*.

THE HIDDEN LIFE.

BY. PROF. UPHAM.

My life is folded in the life of Jesus,
No longer mine, but purchased by that tide,
That crimson tide, which, shed on Calvary
frees us
From those dark stains that in our hearts abide.
My life is hid with Christ, and I am His;
What'e'er His will, that am I bound to do;
If He doth call me to far lands and seas,
I hear His summons, and His steps pursue,
Where'er He goes, I cannot stay behind;
In what He does, my hand shall have employ;
Whene'er He suffers, sorrow fills my mind;
When He rejoices, I partake the joy,
He bought me by His blood, and I am His;
I have no other will, no other grief nor bliss.

ON FEMALE SOCIETY.

One of the great benefits a young man may derive from women's society is, that he is bound to be respectful to them. The habit is of great good to your moral man, depend on it. Our education makes of us the most eminently selfish men in the world. We fight for our lives; we push for ourselves; we cut the best slices out of the joint at club dinners for ourselves; we yawn for ourselves, and light our pipes, and say we won't go out, we prefer ourselves and our ease; and the greatest good that comes to a man from women's society is, that he has to think of somebody besides himself—somebody to whom he is bound to be constantly attentive and respectful. Certainly I don't want my dear Bob to associate with those of the other sex whom he don't and can't respect; that is worse than billiards; worse than tavern brandy and water; worse than smoking selfishly at home. But I vow I would rather see you turning over the leaves of Miss Fiddlecombe's music book all night than at billiards, or smoking, or brandy and water, or all three.—*Thackeray.*

☞ I have observed one ingredient somewhat necessary in a man's composition towards happiness, which people of feeling would do well to acquire—a certain respect for the follies of mankind; for there are so many fools whom the world entitles to regard, whom accident has placed in heights of which they are unworthy, that he who cannot restrain his contempt or indignation at the sight will be too often quarrelling with the disposal of things to relish that share which is allotted to himself.—*Mackenzie.*

ALWAYS LOVE.

BY WILLIAM WINTER.

Because Love's sigh is but a sigh,
Doth it the less Love's heart disclose?
Because the rose must fade and die,
Is it the less the lovely rose?
Because black night must shroud the day,
Shall the brave sun no more be gay?

Because chill Autumn frights the birds,
Shall we distrust that Spring will come?
Because sweet words are only words,
Shall Love for evermore be dumb?
Because our bliss is fleeting bliss,
Shall we who love forbear to kiss?

Because those eyes of gentle mirth
Must sometime cease my heart to thrill,
Because the sweetest voice on earth
Sooner or later must be still,
Because its idol is unsure,
Shall my strong love the less endure?

Ah, no! let lovers breathe their sighs,
And roses bloom, and music sound,
And passion burn on lips and eyes,
And pleasure's merry world go round:
Let golden sunshine flood the sky,
And let me love, or let me die!

SIMPLICITY OF TRUE GREATNESS.

"The more I see of the world the more I am convinced that simplicity is not more the inevitable accompaniment of true genius than it is of true greatness. I never yet knew a truly great genius who did not possess a certain playful, almost childish, simplicity of character. True greatness never struts on stilts, or plays the king upon the stage. Conscious of its elevation above the rest of mankind, and knowing in what that elevation consists, it is happy to take its part in the common amusements and business of life. It is not afraid of being undervalued for its humility.

"Of this class was Chief Justice Marshall. In his hours of relaxation, he was as full of fun and as natural as a child. He entered into the spirit of athletic exercises with the ardor of youth, and at sixty odd years of age was one of the best quoit players in Virginia.

"I think it was during the summer of 1820 that I met him at a quoit club near Richmond, where were collected at least half a dozen grave judges and several distinguished persons of different professions, including Jarvis, the portrait painter, the prince of originals, past, present, and I may venture to say, future.

"A match was made, and the Chief Justice threw off his coat, and fell to work with as much energy as he would have directed to the decision of a question of neutral rights, or the conflicting jurisdiction of the general and State governments.

"I remember, in the course of the game, and when the parties were nearly a tie, that some dispute arose as to the quoit nearest the ring. The Chief Justice was chosen umpire between the quoit belonging to Jarvis and that of Billy Haxall. The judge bent down on one knee and with a straw essayed the decision of this important question, on which the fate of the game in a great measure depended. After nicely measuring, and biting off the end of the straw. "Gentlemen," said he, "you will perceive this quoit would have it, but the rule of the game is to measure from the visible iron. Now that cold of dirt hides about half an inch, but then he has a right to the nearest part of the ring, and here, you will perceive, is a splinter which belongs to and is part of the ring, as much as Virginia is a part of the Union. This is giving Mr. Haxall a great advantage, but notwithstanding, in my opinion, Jarvis has it by at least the sixteenth part of an inch, and so I decide, like a just judge, in my own favor."

"A man who is not afraid, whatever exaltation he may have reached, to let himself thus down to the level of his fellow men, must have that innate consciousness of genius which is in itself sufficient evidence of possession. Those who are afraid of mixing with their fellow creatures, are of the every day race of men whom chance has made notorious, and who are alike inhabitants of empty palaces that shut their windows for fear people may come near enough to detect the abject poverty within."

THE USES OF WALKING.

Walking, for young and active people, is by far the best exercise; riding is good for the elderly, middle aged, and invalids. The abuse of these exercises consists in taking them when the system is exhausted more or less by previous fasting or by mental labors. Some persons injudiciously attempt a long walk before breakfast, under the belief that it is conducive to health. Others will get up early to work three hours at some abstruse mental toil, with the effect in both instances is the same; it subtracts from the power of exertion in the after part of the day. A short saunter or some light reading before this meal is the best indulgence of the kind; otherwise the waste occasioned by labor must be supplied by nourishment, and the breakfast will necessarily become a heavy meal, and the whole morning's comfort sacrificed by a weight at the chest, from imperfect digestion of food. These observations apply especially to elderly persons, who are prone to flatter themselves into the persuasion that they can use their mental or bodily powers in age as in youth.

PREVENTIVE OF THE DECAY OF WOOD.

Experiments have been carried on in Paris for a long time, in the intent of finding out a means of preserving palings, post, etc., from decay. As the result of a five years' experience, a paint is recommended, which at the same time possesses the advantage of being impervious to water. It is composed of fifty parts of tar, forty parts of finely crushed chalk, five hundred parts of fine, white, hard sand, four parts linseed oil, one part of the red oxide of copper, in its native state, and, finally, one part of sulphuric acid. In order to manufacture the paint from this multiplicity of materials, the tar, chalk, sand, and oil are first heated in an iron kettle; the oxide and sulphuric acid are then added with a good deal of precaution. The mass is then very carefully mixed. It is now ready for use, and must be applied while hot. In coating the timber, a stiff brush is used. If it is found upon using that the mixture is not liquid enough, a little more linseed oil should be used. After this paint has cooled and dried, it forms a coating or varnish quite as hard as stone.

HEAVY MEN IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

Several towns about us have been bragging about their heavy men. Jaffrey started the roll and collected five solid fellows of the aggregate avoirdupois of 1162 pounds, average 232 2-3 pounds. Then Peterborough outdid its neighbor, and placed five men on the scales who tipped 1269, averaging almost 254 pounds. Nashua slipped into the ring and brought out her muscle and adipose tissue, kicking the beam with 1384 pounds, averaging close up to 277 pounds. But Nashua isn't anywhere when compared with our city. We haven't canvassed and don't know how big men we can find, but our friend Jeremiah Stickney, in Stark Block, took occasion recently to weigh a few of his customers, and found twenty men who weighed 5251 pounds, averaging 262 1-2 pounds. He selected five of them and found them to weigh just 1401 1-2 pounds, an average of 280 pounds and a fraction.

Now these are the solid men who do business at Stickney's, and are not put down as the biggest men in town. It is only our first bid, with large re-ources to draw on, in case of necessity. Why, a few years ago it was said one family of five weighed 1500 pounds, and we suppose they have been well fed since that time.—*Manchester Mirror.*

☞ The eccentric Elder S——n, well known to many as an active and earnest Baptist preacher, once said from the pulpit: "They say there's no family government now-a-days. But there is—I tell you *there is*—just as much as there ever was; but" (leaning over the pulpit, and lowering his voice into a quiet and confidential tone) "the difference is, when I grew up, the old folks governed the young ones, but now the young ones govern the old ones!"

HUSBANDS AND WIVES. Are you living with each other, husbands and wives, in the truest spirit of love, and in the largest sense of wedding? Are you one, or are you forever and forevermore two? Are you living to help each other or to annoy each other? Are you living in the true excusatory spirit which always accompanies real conjugal love? And do you find yourselves moved to patience, to gentleness, and to forbearance?

☞ Fanny Fern says that "the coming woman shall be no cold, angular, flat chested, narrow shouldered, skimpy, sharp visaged Betsy; but she shall be a bright eyed, full chested, broad shouldered, large souled, intellectual being, able to walk, able to eat, and able to fulfill her natural destiny."

☞ An old preacher once took for his text: "Adam, where art thou?" and divided his subject into three parts: 1. All men are somewhere. 2. Some men are where they ought not to be. 3. Unless they take care, they will very soon find themselves where they would much rather not be.

Biographical.

ROBERT BROWNING.

BY M. D. CONWAY.

Mr. Browning stands, with few rivals in the past and none in the present, at the head of what, in fault of a better phrase, may be called intellectual poetry. There are poets who rank him in imaginative lustre, then are more musical minstrels, there are—though these are few—warmer and more delicate colorists; but for clear, vigorous thinking, perfect sculpture of forms embodying thoughts (sculptures too tinted with the flush of life, with veins of blue and red), for the utterance of the right physiognomical word and phrase, he has no superior since Shakespeare. Yet intellectual as it is even to a Greek severity,—beyond even Landor here,—it would by no means express the charm of his writings to style them philosophical. No theory can quote him, nor is he at all ethical. His religious fervor shows in points of white fire on every page, and yet no work aims at a moral lesson or object. He writes neither fable nor allegory. The world of men and women, with their actual passions, hopes, and loves, and the vast arenas for their play opened by these as rivers cut their channels,—these are enough for him. His worship is for man; his faith must find its joy in a divine Man. The world of forms, the city of bodies, represent to him the scattered rays of this mysterious humanity; and his art is not to change them into any moral monotony, but to cultivate and guard them in their various vitality and meaning, and report their dramatic interplay. To philosophy and science all is unity; the poet is a creator of variety out of this unity which shows Faraday but one element, Tyndall one force, Hegel one idea, underlying all actual or conceivable combinations. How grandly he has created his forms may be best learned by considering the fertility of his invention as displayed in all of his volumes. No poet of this generation has approached Robert Browning in the richness and originality of his plots. While around him the gods and goddesses of Greece and Rome have been masquerading in contemporary costumes,—while critics have been often limited for a generation at a time to the question whether Smith's Venus or Cupid is finer than Jones's,—while every Oriental or Scandinavian or Italian legend has been made to do duty like the professional models whose faces and forms, now bright, now brown, reappear at every academy exhibition,—this poet has evolved a series of the most beautiful frames as well as portraits, in attestation of which we need only, for the reader of Browning, mention *Pippa Passes*, *Paracelsus*, *The Flight of the Duchess*, and *The Riot on the Southcheon*.—*Atlantic Monthly.*

☞ Some one has beautifully said of those who die young, that "they are like the lambs which the Alpine shepherds bear in their arms to higher and greener pastures, that the flocks may follow."

☞ That is a bad religion, which makes us hate the religion of other people.

Domestic Economy.

VALUABLE RECIPES.

FROM LADY CONTRIBUTORS.

HARD GINGERBREAD. One-half a bowl of butter, one bowl of sugar, two bowls of flour, one teaspoon of saleratus dissolved in a little sour milk, two eggs, ginger or nutmeg according to taste.

POTATO ROLLS. When mashed potato is left from the table, add one or two eggs, according to quantity, a little salt, pepper, butter and flour; mix into small balls and bake three quarters of an hour. These rolls make a cheap and nice breakfast dish.

Anecdotes.

HEALTH INSURANCE. A thin, cadaverous looking German, about fifty years of age, entered the office of a health insurance company and inquired,—"Ish te man in vat insures de people's helts?"

The agent answered, "I attend to that business."

"Vell, I vants mine helts insured. Vot you sharge?"

"Different prices," answered the agent; "from three to ten dollars a year. Pay ten dollars a year, and you get ten dollars a week in case of sickness."

"Vell" said Mynheer, "I vants ten dollars vert."

The agent inquired his state of health.

"Vell, I ish sick all the time. I's shust out of bed two or three hours a tay, unt te doctor says he can't do nothing more goot for me."

"If that's the state of your health," returned the agent, "we can't insure it. We only insure persons who are in good health." At this Mynheer bristled up in great anger.

"You must tink I's a fool. Vot you tink I come pay you ten dollars for inshure my helt ven I vas vell?"

ANECDOTE OF LYMAN BEECHER. The Rev. Doctor, some years ago, was going home one night, with a volume of an encyclopedia under his arm, when he saw a small animal in his path. The doctor knew it was a skunk, but hurled the book at him. As might have been expected the worthy divine was glad to retreat.

When he arrived at home, his friends could scarcely come near him. His clothes were so infected that he was obliged to bury them.

Some time after this, some one published a pamphlet speaking very abusively of the worthy doctor, who was asked,

"Why don't you publish a book, and put him down at once?"

His reply was prompt and wise. "Sir, I have learnt better. Some years ago I issued a whole quarto volume against a skunk, and I got the worst of it. I never mean to try the experiment again."

SENSIBLE. A handsome young widow applied to a physician to relieve her of three distressing complaints with which she was affected.

"In the first place," said she, "I have little or no appetite. What shall I take for that?"

"For that, madam, you should take air and exercise."

"And doctor, I am quite fidgetty at night time, and afraid to be alone. What shall I take for that?"

"For that I can only recommend that you take a husband."

"Fie! doctor. But I have the blues terribly. What shall I take for that?"

"For that, madam, you have, besides taking the air and a husband, to take a newspaper."

☞ Two upstarts were riding into the country one day, where they espied an old farmer engaged in sowing. One of them called out to him in an insolent tone, "Well, old fellow, it's your business to sow, but we reap the fruit of your labors." "Very likely you may," replied the farmer, "for I am sowing hemp."

☞ "Where is the hoe, Sambo?" "Wid de rake, massa!" "Well, where is the *rake*?" "Why wid de hoe." "Well, well—where are they *both*?" "Why, both togedder, massa,—you 'pears to be berry *ticular* dis mornin'!"

☞ "It is undeniable," says Prentice, "that in America it takes three to make a couple, he, she and a hired girl. Had Adam been a modern there would have been a hired girl in paradise to look after little Abel and 'raise Cain.'"

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